



# NEWSLETTER

Term 5 – 2025-2026

*We grow together, through God we are Giving, Loving and Honest*

This term has once again reminded me that the kindness of others never ceases to surprise me.

Back in December, our Year 6 children visited Great Ormond Street Hospital to share Christmas joy through their carols and as always, they brought not only music but warmth, respect and genuine kindness to everyone they met along the way. During that journey, as the children exchanged pleasantries with members of the public, one of our pupils struck up a conversation with Lisa and Jason, who run their own stage-building company. They later shared how incredibly impressed they were by the politeness, confidence and values demonstrated by our pupils and kindly offered their support to our school in the future.

As we began planning improvements for our upcoming Summer Soirée with Mr. Bunker, we discussed enhancing our sound system and reached out to Jason to ask if we might borrow some equipment. To our amazement, after speaking with us, Lisa and Jason went above and beyond and purchased a full set of microphones and speakers for the school. They asked for no publicity or recognition, simply wanting to give back to a community that had made such a positive impression on them.

This generosity speaks volumes, but even more so, it reflects the incredible young people we are so proud of every day. Our children consistently demonstrate the values of kindness, respect and empathy, not because they are asked to, but because it is truly who they are. It is those small, genuine interactions that leave lasting impressions and this story is a wonderful reminder of the difference our pupils make in the world around them.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Soiree on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July starting at 4:30pm to put our new sound system on trial.

**Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**2 Corinthians 9:7:16**

Forest  
School  
News



We welcomed our first group of children to forest school this term and are proud to be able to provide this outdoor learning, which will facilitate the holistic development of our children through play, risk-taking and connection to nature.

Forest school learning will enable us to support and promote self-esteem, confidence and communication as well as the children's wellbeing and emotional development.

A big thanks to Fred Butcher from Grain Coastal Park for helping us set up this area by providing much needed resources and to the SJPA for supplying class wet weather clothing.

Watch this space to follow our forest school journey!



**To Date – 95.4%**  
**School Target – 95%+**

Congratulations to Year 2 who have achieved the highest attendance this term at 98.7%



**Don't forget to book your child's school dinner  
ready for the first day of term on  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

Following their interest in this term's topic 'How does it grow', our Nursery children have been exploring the life cycles of crocodiles, frogs and plants - they have loved watching how quickly or slowly things change.



Year R have been enjoying their new topic of 'What lives here'. We started the term with our first school visit to the Fenn Bell Zoo where the children behaved impeccably as they looked at the different enclosures learning about the various habitats and the animals that live in them. We also have caterpillars in class that we are watching closely to see when they metamorphose into butterflies.



Year 1 had a great day at the Fenn Bell Zoo learning about nocturnal animals to start their 'Wonders of the night' topic and have worked hard writing a story based on 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'.



Year 2 went on a wonderful trip to Fenn Bell Zoo. The children were full of excitement and loved learning all about nocturnal animals and were particularly in awe of the new sloth, the baby lemurs and the red fox that was white!



Year 3 have enjoyed writing a playscript about an Egyptian adventure and we have been inquisitive scientists, learning all about states of matter. We are loving being historians learning all about the ancient Egyptians and making Canopic jars in Art!



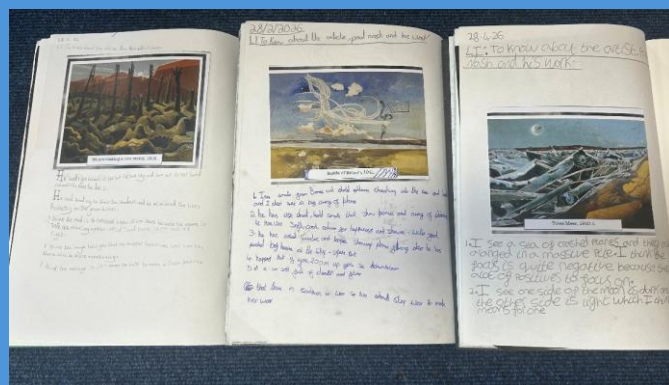
Year 4 have really enjoyed starting our topic on Ancient Egyptians. We created canopic jars using clay (ask us a gross fact about them!) and have created some fabulous writing based on our book 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx'.



Year 5 have started a new topic focusing on World War II. We were given the opportunity to visit Chatham Dockyard and we boarded submarine Ocelot and HMS Cavalier. We also visited the ropery, where ropes still made today, many of which have been used in films, including Paddington!



As always, this term is very busy for Year 6 in the run up to SATs. The children have worked so hard on their revision and during the tests and we couldn't be prouder of them. In between the revision we have managed to squeeze in some lovely exploration of the artist Paul Nash as part of our World War topic



## Enrichment News

This term, some of the children were given the opportunity to visit Rochester Cathedral to take part in Science and RE learning activities. They investigated the different materials used throughout the cathedral and explored the stained-glass windows, learning about the stories they tell.

The children particularly enjoyed creating their own stained-glass window designs and sharing the stories behind them.

Finally, they took part in a tour of the cathedral and learned about its history, discovering that hundreds of years ago it was a monastery for monks, with some of the original buildings still standing strong today.



## ST. JAMES' JAMS AFTER-SCHOOL PROVISION

A reminder that we will be managing the after-school provision from Term 6.

Bookings should be made via Arbor and will only be secured once payment has been made.

3.15pm to 4.15pm - £6.50

3.15pm to 5.45pm - £9.50 (food included)

# Dates For Your Diary

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	START OF TERM 6 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Visit to Kent Life	Year 3 and Year 4
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Mini Youth Games Football Tournament	Selected pupils
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm	Service in St. James Church led by Year 3 – parents welcome	Year 3
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit to Dover Castle	Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Come Dine With Me	Year 3
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	SJPA Summer Disco ( <i>more information to follow</i> )	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am	Sports Day – School Field	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Come Dine With Me	Year 5
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Visit to Grain Library	Key Stage 2
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Mini Youth Games Kwik Cricket	Selected pupils
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Come Dine With Me	Year 4
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit to Church Farm Hoo ( <i>information to follow</i> )	Farm to Fork Group
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm	Service in St. James Church led by Year R – parents welcome	Year R
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Come Dine With Me	Year 6
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Transition Day	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July at 4.30pm	Music Soiree	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 End of Year Performance ( <i>information to follow</i> )	Year 6
13 <sup>th</sup> July to 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Residential visit to Lower Grange Farm	Year 6
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 9.00am	Celebration Worship	Year R and Key Stage 1
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 9.30am	Leavers' Service in St. James Church	Year 6
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 2.45pm	Celebration Worship	Key Stage 2
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	END OF TERM 6	

**Wishing you a restful May Break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**