

St James's Jotter

June 2016



It is hard to believe that this is the 10th edition of St James's Jotter and the last one for this academic year. I would like to thank the children, parents, staff and Governors of our wonderful school for all your support over the year. It has been a very busy year but also one that has seen many great achievements for our school and our children. As we move ever closer to the end of the term, I would particularly like to thank Miss Lia Sala, Mr Liam Tunney, Miss Janine Black and Mrs Ciara Carson for all they have done for our school and our children in the time they have been with us. Unfortunately, they will not be returning to St James's in September and we wish them all every success and happiness for the future. In September, we will be welcoming Mr Eamonn McNamee back to our school. Mr McNamee has been on secondment with the Inclusion and Diversity Service and we look forward to his return to St James's. Best wishes go to our Year Seven children as they move to their post primary schools. I hope they will look back at their time here in St James's with great fondness and hope that we have given them the best start to their continuing school career. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful break. Please stay safe and I look forward to welcoming everyone back at the end of August.

Best wishes

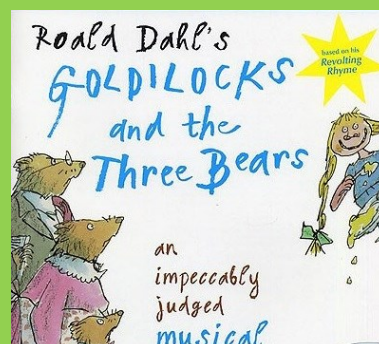
Paula Cunningham



Best Kept School Awards

We are delighted that we were highly commended in the Best Kept School Awards. Our certificate states that our award is "In recognition of a notable contribution to the enhancement of the environment". Special thanks must go to Mrs Dallat, the Eco Team, the Gardening Club, our Year 6 and 7 children, Mr Devenney, Mrs McMahon and our parents who have helped out throughout the year. Very well done to everyone. It is a great achievement and we should all be very proud!

Roald Dahl's Goldilocks



We are in for a special treat this year as the Year Seven children accompanied musically by our Year Six children, take to the stage to perform Roald Dahl's Goldilocks. The show will take place on

Tuesday 21 June at 11.00am and Wednesday 22 June at 7.00pm. Tickets are on sale now and are priced at £3 for adults and £2 for Senior Citizens and children. We look forward to your support.

Hockey Tournament

Our annual hockey tournament took place on Wednesday 15 June with teams from Whitehouse PS, King's Park PS, St Mary's Star of the Sea PS and St James's PS all competing for the coveted trophy. Well done to King's Park Primary School who were winners of the tournament and to Whitehouse Primary School who came second. It was a great morning and everyone enjoyed the spirit of the tournament. I would like to thank Tesco for sponsoring the event and thank our staff for organising such a great event for the children. Special thanks to Mrs Tisdale who coordinated the tournament and coaches our hockey team.

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SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our Safeguarding team is:

Mrs Dallat	Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Kelly	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Heaney	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Nursery)
Mrs Cunningham	Principal

If you have any concerns about a child in the Primary School, please speak with Mrs Dallat or, in her absence, Mrs Kelly.

If you have any concerns about a child in the Nursery Unit, please speak with Mrs Heaney.

All concerns will be dealt with sensitively.

PTA

I would like to extend a sincere thanks to our PTA for all their fundraising this year. They have worked tirelessly to support our school and have enabled us to purchase much needed resources for our children. I would appeal to everyone to please get involved in the PTA as more support is greatly needed.

The May Fair raised a magnificent £1152.55 and we will let you know how much was raised from the Summer Draw and the End of Year Disco as soon as possible.

TAKE CARE!

It is great to see some of our children coming to school on their bicycles. However, I would like to remind you that, in the interests of your child's safety, when riding a bicycle, the child should always wear a helmet. Children should also get off their bicycle at the school gate and walk their bicycle round to the bicycle stands.



Uniform Orders

All uniform orders must be returned by Wednesday 22 June. We will send an email to let you know when the uniforms will be available to collect. It will also be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

McConkey Cup

On Wednesday 22 June our children will compete for the McConkey Cup in school. They will recite poetry and Mr McKeague will judge the competition. This has always been a very popular competition and we would encourage as many children to enter as possible.

PATHS

On Monday 6 June, Jennah Fulton and Ewan Gracey, along with Mr Tunney and Mrs Cunningham, represented our school at a PATHS celebration in Belfast City Hall. The Lord Mayor of Belfast presented us with a certificate recognising our involvement in the PATHS programme.

CRIS Celebration

Mrs Cunningham attended at special event at the residence of the Irish Joint Secretary to celebrate the work of CRIS (Community Relations in Schools). We have worked with CRIS on numerous occasions over the past few years, most recently through our Shared Education programme and the family residential to Corrymeela and we greatly value their work.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Your child's End of Year report will be sent home on Monday 20 June. I would be grateful if you could read the report, sign and, if you wish, make a comment and return the report to your child's teacher by Thursday 23 June. You will then be given a copy of the report to keep.

Canteen Theme Day

On Wednesday 22 June, the canteen will be running a theme day for the European Football Championships. There will be cocktail sausages, pizza, salad, sandwiches, ice lollies and milkshakes. The usual price of £2.50 applies.

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CONTACT DETAILS

It is vitally important that we have current contact details for all parents/guardians so that you can be contacted in the case of an emergency. Please ensure that if your contact details change, you inform the office immediately.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 30 August	Children return to school (half day)
Wed 31 August	Children in school (half day)
Thurs 1 September	Full day
Friday 2 September	Normal day (2pm finish)
Mon 26 September	School closed
Tues 27 September	School closed
Fri 28 October	Half day
31 Oct—4 Nov	School closed

Pupil of the Month

The following children were awarded Pupil of the Month for May:

Year One Mrs Magill	Zuzanna Dagiel Kyle Jankowski
Year One Miss Morrow	Ethan Mullan Alphonsa Sebastian
Year 2 Mrs Cross	Shay Southam Kevin Hoyne
Year 2/3 Mrs Cuning	Se Sweetnam Carly Crossan
Year 3 Miss Black	Cate O'Dowd Conor O'Conallain
Year 4 Mr Jones	John Tasker Lynch Shannon Magee
Year 5 Mr Tunney	Jonathan McCourt Niamh McWilliams
Year 6 Mrs Kelly	Ruairi Mulholland Ann Sweetnam
Year 6 Mr Nolan	Daniel McAuley Cleo Mulholland
Year 7 Mrs Donaghy	Ellen McNamara Ewan Gracey
Mrs Dallat	Kosma Siwecki Grace Law

Congratulations to all the boys and girls.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

As you are aware, raising standards in all aspects of school life is a priority here in St James's. We are constantly trying to improve and we value your input. I would be grateful if you could spare ten minutes to complete a questionnaire to tell us how well you think we are doing and how you think we can improve the things that are important to you. The questionnaire applies to the Primary School only and one questionnaire should be completed for each child in the Primary School. Therefore, if you have two children in the Primary School, I would be grateful if you could complete two questionnaires.

The questionnaire can be completed by going to:

<http://survey.gl-assessment.co.uk/s/KDMGS/>

and logging on using the password: sjp16899parent (the password is case sensitive).

By completing the questionnaire, you will be telling us how you think we should be spending our time and resources to make our school the best that it can be for your child.

Each completed questionnaire is vital in finding out what parents/guardians think. Your answers will be treated in strictest confidence and will make a difference to how we plan for the future.

MISSION CPR!

On Wednesday 22 June, our year Seven children will be taking part in the British heart Foundation's Mission CPR. They will be trained how to administer CPR and save a life. This is a very valuable life skill and we are very proud to be part of this initiative.



Free School Meals

The Education Authority have issued forms to those parents whose children are entitled to free school meals. I would urge you to complete this form as soon as possible and return it to the Education Authority so as your child does not have to pay for dinner on 1 September.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals or you are not sure, please request a form either from the school office or from the Education Authority, County Hall, Ballymena.

I would encourage as many people as possible to apply for free meals as our school also receives additional funding in our budget based on the number of children entitled. So please, take a few minutes to make an application.

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