



ST JAMES THE GREAT

@STJGREAT

1/3/19 Issue 18

A very busy week at school...Happy St David's Day! Well done to the House captains who spoke at Assembly this morning.

Year 1 visited Hever Castle in beautiful sunshine on Wednesday as part of their topic learning. Our football and netball teams were in action with mixed results, we took a general knowledge quiz team to the local heats of Quiz Club and performed well but unfortunately did not make it through to the regional round.

5.1 talked about Inspirational People in their Prayer service this week and 4.2 put on a brilliant electricity themed assembly with a song that took all the adults back to the 80's. Thank you to everyone who was able to come and take part in these services. The children put a lot of time and effort into preparing for events such as these so it is good for them to have an audience.

We had an assembly based on Times Tables Rockstars where I was challenged by the quickest three children in the school...all of them scored under a second per question...my rate was 2 questions a second. #must try harder!

We will be celebrating World Book Day in style on Thursday 7th March. Children are invited to dress up in their pyjamas ready for bedtime stories or dress up as their favourite book character. We are very aware that ready made costumes are expensive and so children's costumes should be home made and as simple as possible. Remember to send in with your child the book that their character comes from.

Unfortunately, there will be no early morning ICT Club until further notice as the ICT suite is awaiting new computers to be installed. We hope that we will have them installed and running within the next two weeks.

Parent Evening online booking will be available next week—the links will be emailed to you. Please ask at the office if you wish them to book a slot for you if you have technical difficulties.

Please may we remind you that boots and trainers are not part of our school uniform policy and are, therefore, not permitted. We also ask that only school hats with our school logo are worn by the children. We have attached our school uniform policy to the end of this Newsletter.

Some of you may be aware that Mrs Wellington has been appointed as the new SENCO at Bishop Thomas Grant. She will be leaving us at Easter, but we have negotiated her staying here for one day a week until we can appoint her successor. We will miss her care, professionalism and constant hard work but wish her well in the new position.

Dates

March

5th Shrove Tuesday
pancake races 9.15 in
playgrounds.

6th Ash Wednesday
Service

12th and 13th Parent
Evenings

18th Values Week &
SEN Reviews

19 author Ross Mont-
gomerie visiting

29th Mothers' Day

Breakfast

April

5th Break up 2pm

If your child is being
picked up by someone
else, please inform the
teachers or the office.

MOMO Following a flurry of scare stories, some schools have warned parents about the "momo challenge" - but fact-checkers say it is a hoax. The original tale said a character with bulging eyes would "hack" into WhatsApp and set children dangerous "challenges" such as harming themselves. Charities say there have been no reports of anybody being "hacked" or harming themselves as a result. But the image is now being shared on social media to frighten children. It has been found edited into unofficial copies of children's cartoons such as Peppa Pig on YouTube. "News coverage of the momo challenge is prompting schools or the police to warn about the supposed risks posed by the momo challenge, which has in turn produced more news stories warning about the challenge," said the [Guardian media editor Jim Waterson](#).

What is 'momo'?

In February, versions of the momo story went viral on social media. They attracted hundreds of thousands of shares and resulted in news stories reporting the tale. According to the story, children are contacted on WhatsApp by an account claiming to be momo. Some versions of the tale suggested "hackers" made the image appear on the phone unexpectedly. Children are supposedly encouraged to save the character as a contact and are then asked to carry out challenges, as well as being told not to tell other members of their family. [The UK Safer Internet Centre told the Guardian](#) that it was "fake news". However, unofficial copies of cartoons such as Peppa Pig have been uploaded to YouTube with footage of "momo" edited in. Children watching unofficial uploads may therefore be exposed to the distressing images. Several articles claimed the momo challenge had been "linked" to the deaths of 130 teenagers in Russia. The reports have not been corroborated by the relevant authorities.

The image of momo is actually a photo of a sculpture by Japanese special-effects company Link Factory. According to pop-culture website [Know Your Meme](#), it first gained attention in 2016. Fact-checking website [Snopes](#) suggested the story was "far more hype or hoax than reality", but warned the images could still cause distress to children. "The subject has generated rumours that in themselves can be cause for concern among children," wrote David Mikkelson on the site. Police in the UK have not reported any instances of children harming themselves due to the momo meme. The charity Samaritans said it was "not aware of any verified evidence in this country or beyond" linking the momo meme to self-harm. The NSPCC told the Guardian it had received more calls from newspapers than from concerned parents.

What should parents do? Police have suggested that rather than focusing on the specific momo meme, parents could use the opportunity to [educate children about internet safety](#), as well as having an open conversation about what children are accessing. "This is merely a current, attention-grabbing example of the minefield that is online communication for kids," wrote the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in a Facebook post. Broadcaster Andy Robertson, who creates videos online as Geek Dad, said in a podcast that parents should not "share warnings that perpetuate and mythologise the story".

"A better focus is good positive advice for children, setting up technology appropriately and taking an interest in their online interactions," he said.

To avoid causing unnecessary alarm, parents should also be careful about sharing news articles with other adults that perpetuate the myth



School Uniform

St James the Great School and Nursery is a uniform school and acceptance of a place confirms an undertaking to conform to the school's uniform policy which has been fully endorsed by the Governing Body.

Wearing jewellery is not permitted except for small stud earrings for girls. We expect haircuts of a reasonable length avoiding unusual or extreme styles. Accordingly, closely cropped hair and patterns or lines cut into the hair, for example, are not acceptable. This regulation equally applies to girls who are expected to keep their hair tidy, tied back if longer than shoulder length using blue or white ties. Hair decorations and extensions should be kept for holiday periods only.

Girls are not permitted to wear straight or split skirts.

Some of our uniform garments carry the school crest (marked with an asterisk on the uniform list) and can be bought only through the school's uniform shop. All clothing must be clearly marked with the child's name. Name tapes can be ordered through the school shop.

The Governors have approved the introduction of a school uniform blazer which is a uniform requirement for children entering our Reception classes. The details of sizes and prices are given on the Uniform Price List which forms part of this information pack.

Items shown in italics are not available through our uniform shop. It will be necessary to ensure those items not available through the school are purchased elsewhere in advance of your child's start date with us.

Summer uniform is worn from the first day back after the Easter holidays. Children may continue to wear summer uniform, if the weather permits, until we break up for October half-term. At all other times, winter uniform must be worn.

Nursery

Navy Blue Regulation Coat

Navy Blue Sweatshirt*

White Polo Shirt*

Navy Blue Jogging Bottoms

Navy Blue Shorts (summer alternative)

Trainers (velcro fastening preferred)