



21st October 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of St James,

The end of term has come around so quickly! We break up this Friday for Half Term at 3.15pm and come back on Tuesday 3rd November after a staff training day on the Monday.

**We finish this Friday, 23rd October at 3:15pm for Half Term.
School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd November**

On Monday, all the year groups shared their important learning about Black History Month. It was wonderful to see a re-enactment of Rosa Park's imprisonment; we learnt about the 'firsts' for Matthew Henson, Walter Tull and Diane Abbott as well as learning about more recent role models such as Sadiya Kabeyo and Malorie Blackman. Year 6 performed a dramatic retelling about George Floyd and the Black Lives Matters movement. It was such a thought provoking and important Gathering for us all.

Matthew Henson (1866-1955) - Explorer who helped reach the North Pole.	Y2
Walter Tull (1888-1918) - One of Britain's first Black professional footballers and the first Black British Army officer.	4L
Rosa Parks (1913-2005) - Civil Rights activist in America.	Y1
Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) - Anti-apartheid leader and President of South Africa	Y5
Diane Abbott (born 1953) - First Black woman elected to the UK Parliament.	4R
Malorie Blackman (born 1962) - Award-winning British author.	3L
George Floyd (1973-2020) - His death sparked global protests against racism and the Black Lives Matter movement	Y6
Sadia Kabeya (born 2002) - England international rugby player and role model who promotes diversity and inclusion in sport.	3R



This followed our very successful Harvest Festival the previous week – the children sang songs and read poetry and prayers. Your very generous donations were sent to Three Pillars to make meals for those in our local community who are in need and also to make up food parcels. Aaron joined us for our service and explained to the children just how important their donations were – so thank you to everyone who donated – it really was appreciated.

In some staffing news, I am sad to let you know that we have three members of staff leaving us at Christmas. Miss Gough in Year 6 is leaving to take up a teaching post in Shropshire. She will be replaced by Mr Draper, who the children in 6R have already met. Miss Brown is leaving Reception for new adventures and will be replaced by Mrs Griffin – we are hoping she will be able to come in and meet all the parents soon. Lastly, Mr Cooper is leaving us to start his training as a fully qualified teacher – we are hoping that he will visit us soon on placement as a trainee teacher! We are currently advertising to replace Mr Cooper – if you know any sports coaches looking for a role in a school – please point them in our direction!

We have added more dates for our Christmas performances and parties – including 'Movie with Santa' - take a look overleaf and add them to your diary!

We wish you a lovely Half Term – if you are around Northampton on Saturday 31st October, please come and join us at the Diwali Parade – we are meeting at the Guildhall at 5:30pm. It would be lovely to see lots of you there!

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the adults on the gate at the beginning or end of the day – we are there to help you!

Best Wishes,

Sarah Beach (Headteacher) & Sarah Buettner (Headteacher Designate)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES / COMING UP

Monday 19th October	Black History Month Assembly – sorry, not enough space for parents
Wednesday 21st October	Reception Open Day (for 2027 intake) 4:30 -5:30pm
Friday 23rd October	School closes for Half Term at 3:15pm
Saturday 31st October	Diwali Parade in Northampton – meeting time 5:30pm at the Guildhall
Monday 2nd November	School CLOSED for staff training (INSET)
Tuesday 3rd November	School opens after the Half Term. Gates open at 8:35am
Wednesday 4th Nov	Reception Open Day (for 2027 intake) 10:00 – 11:00am and 2:00 – 3:00pm
Thursday 5th November	MHST workshop for parents on “Managing Behaviours” – 9am Studio
Wednesday 11th Nov	Remembrance Service at school (outside) ALL welcome – 10:30am start
Thursday 12th November	Magistrates Visit for 6R
Thursday 12th November	Reception Open Day (for 2027 intake) 4:30 -5:30pm
Friday 13th November	Magistrates Visit for 6L
Friday 13th November	Children in Need Day
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day – “Break the Silence” / Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November	School Forum meeting – 1:30 in school
Wednesday 18th Nov	EYFS Reception Parents’ Workshop on phonics / 9:00 – 9:30
Weds 25th – Fri 27th Nov	Scholastic Book Fair in school
w/b Monday 30th Nov	BSL Assessments for Year 4 and Year 5 Level 101
Wednesday 2nd Dec	Christmas Craft Day – lots of help appreciated in school!
Friday 4th December	Last Celebration Gathering
Monday 7th December	Movie with Santa – Years 1, 2 and 3 – after school – tickets on sale soon
Tuesday 8th December	Movie with Santa – Years 4, 5 and 6 – after school – tickets on sale soon
Wednesday 9th Dec	Rocksteady Concert in school – parents invited 9:30am
Wednesday 9th Dec	Communion in school – 2:15pm – all invited
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Lunch in school
Thursday 10th December	Movie with Santa – Nursery, Reception and Ark – after school – tickets on sale soon
Friday 11th December	PANTOMIME (in the morning) leaving school at 9am to the Old Savoy
Monday 14th December	Christmas Carol Concert – outside school – 6pm – ALL WELCOME
Tuesday 15th December	Early Years (Reception & Nursery) Nativity 9:30am
Tuesday 15th December	KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity 2pm
Wed 16th December	KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity 9:30am
Wed 16th December	Early Years (Reception & Nursery) Nativity 2pm
Thursday 17th December	Church Service – 10am – all welcome
Thursday 17th December	Christmas parties in school
Friday 18th December	School finishes at 1:30pm for the Christmas break
Monday 4th Jan 2027	School CLOSED for staff training (INSET)
Tuesday 5th Jan 2027	School opens after the Christmas Term. Gates open at 8:35am

APPLICATIONS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL MUST BE MADE BY 31ST OCTOBER 2026

APPLICATIONS FOR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2027 MUST BE MADE BY 15TH JANUARY 2027