



11 October 2024

Dear Parents

The weather may have been a bit challenging this week but the children have been completely unphased by it. We have had an exciting week brimming with musical brilliance, sporting acumen, and artistic success. We will be documenting all these achievements in detail with some great pictures in our half termly newsletter next week but here is a summary of what has been going on...

On Wednesday, we had our first Performance Tea where 12 pupils from Year 1 to 6 either played their instruments or sang to a delighted audience of pupils and parents; we are discovering some new talent which is wonderful. If you would like your child to be in the next event in November, please complete this form and we will add them to the programme: <https://forms.office.com/e/KtR46pZ8ac> Please note that grandparents and relatives are very welcome to attend, and your child does not have to have their instrument lessons at St James to take part. Playing an instrument is good for developing so many skills and at St James we want every child to have the opportunity to play and perform together. We are currently forming a Lower and an Upper School ensemble who are going to practice at lunch times so if you would like your child to take up an instrument so they can be involved, then please do complete the [form](#) and we will get them started.

Also on Wednesday, our talented runners from Year 4, 5 and 6 travelled up to Hemel Hempstead with Miss Roberson and Miss Myers to compete in the ISA Cross Country Running Competition. There were at least 60 children in each race and our pupils ran bravely through woods, up steep hills and across muddy fields. They all did us proud. Aria, in Year 4 did astoundingly well, coming in second in her race.

On Thursday, we entered several pieces into the ISA regional Art Competition and our pupils achieved one First Place, one Second Place and 2 Highly Commended awards. This means that in sport, and in Art, we will be competing once again in the ISA

National Finals! We could not be prouder of our pupils. Congratulations to all of our competitors and thank you to their inspiring teachers!

In assembly this morning we announced the finalists of the in-school Sunflower Painting Competition. The 8 best pictures have been chosen to be on display in my office for a year and I can't wait to see them. There will be a celebration tea in my office for the winners after half-term and they will receive 20 House Points each. Well done!

For those of you who like to come to our Friday Assemblies, you will be pleased to hear that after half-term you should be able to get a coffee from our own coffee shop before it starts. The designs are now confirmed, and the installers should be in over the break.

Please note that we are starting our collection for the annual Poppy Appeal on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October so please send your child in with some money in an envelope or meet the charity reps in the courtyard. Items for sale will include: Poppy stickers: 50p, Paper poppies & pin: £1, Poppy key-rings: £2, Poppy snap-bracelets: £3, Poppy ribbon bracelets: £3 Thank you for supporting this most worthy cause.

At St James we teach the importance of being grateful and to this end, on Monday, and for the rest of the week, everyone will have the opportunity to say Thank You to someone, either in school or at home. A table with post-it notes will be set up in the courtyard and a Gratitude Board will be there for them to be stuck onto. We will then keep the messages in a Gratitude Scrap Book.

Thank you for all of your support.

I do hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs. Wyatt