

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at SJS, we were honoured to welcome headteachers and staff from schools across Hampshire, who visited us as part of our TGMC Flagship status. Throughout their visit, our visitors were incredibly impressed by the calm, focused and purposeful learning environment they experienced at our school. They were inspired by the strategies we have implemented and are keen to take ideas back to their own schools. We were exceptionally proud to showcase our wonderful school and celebrate the many positive changes we have made to support every child to feel a strong sense of belonging and to thrive. All our children were fantastic ambassadors for SJS, and they should feel incredibly proud of the part they played in making such a positive impression. *Best Wishes, Mrs Davie Headteacher*



School Community News

Key Dates for Your Diary:

"Wondering About ADHD?"

Parent/Carer Information Event
will take place on **14th October at 8:40am**

IEPs, including new targets, will be
available to access from **21st October**.

During **January (Date TBC)**, the
MHST will be delivering a
workshop on identifying and
managing anxiety and
neurodivergence.

School Community Messages

Our PTFA are delighted to be continuing the success of our clothing recycling initiative this year through The Little Recyclers programme, helping to raise valuable funds for our school while promoting sustainability. By donating unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories, families can support school projects in a simple and environmentally friendly way. It's free, easy to take part in, and a fantastic opportunity for our whole school community to get involved. Please see the flyer at the end of the weekly communication for more information and details on how you can help. Let's get collecting ready for 29th September!



Upcoming Events

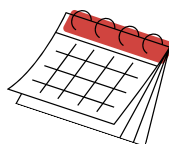
28th September - 1st October - OPAL donations

29th September - 1st October - Little Recyclers

1st October - Donation of tinned/dried goods for Harvest

2nd October - Inset day

5th October - Inset day



KINDNESS.
RESPECT.
INTEGRITY.

School Community Messages

Harvest Celebrations

As Harvest approaches, we wanted to let you know our plans in school - this week we shared what the Harvest festival is about during our whole school assembly on Monday, and we are asking families to donate tinned or dried goods on **Thursday 1st October**, which will be given to the Southampton City Mission for their food bank. Children will be able to put these on a special table in the hall that morning as they arrive at school, and then we will celebrate what we have collected in our whole school assembly. We will then officially hand it over to the City Mission for them to distribute to underserved members of the community.

We would really love to have our Harvest table decorated with a harvest loaf - if any members of our community are keen bakers and would be willing to bake one of these for us, please contact the school office and let us know!



We are taking part in Walktober 2026!



As we head into autumn, it's important to stay active and spend time outdoors whenever possible. To encourage this, Southampton City Council's Sustainable Travel Team is inviting schools to take part in Walktober 2026 as part of International Walk to School Month.

Walktober encourages pupils, families and staff to choose active and sustainable travel throughout October.

We hope as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible will take part by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride or travelling by public transport for journeys to and from school, work and for other journeys too.





OPAL- Outdoor Play and Learning

We are very excited to next year be launching a new play project to make our playtimes even better, following a programme called OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). Through this approach, we aim to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through high-quality teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time is as good as possible. There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out OPAL, such as more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

To facilitate this project, we have already invested in many new resources, we are planning to move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. With the summer holidays approaching, we wanted to share a list of resources that would be incredibly useful for our pupils. If you're planning a clear-out at home, please consider setting aside any of the following items for us- we would be very grateful for your support:

We will be holding a collection week of these items beginning **Monday 28th September**. Please do not bring your donations in before this date as we will have nowhere to store them. If objects are really large, we will ensure that there is someone available to help you carry them into school.

We will send out more information about the OPAL programme after the summer break, as well as inviting you to a parent session later in the year when you will be invited to come and play alongside your children! We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtimes for all children.