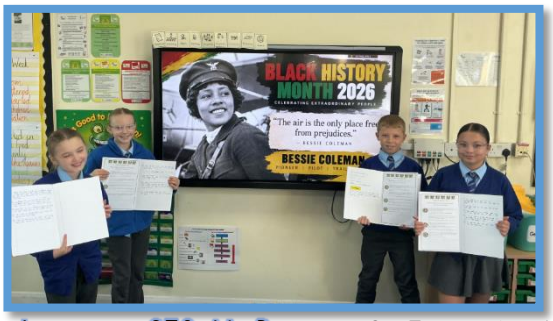
Where children shoot for the stars and shine:

Newsletter: 23rd October, 2026

Headlines and Reminders:

- It has been a very busy couple of weeks here at St James Academy. Each class has been working hard on studying an influential person as part of **Black History Month**. Some of the figures that have been studied include: Mary Seacole, Mo Farrah and Jesse Owens. We are going to be displaying the children's work within our hall for the whole school to see.







- This week, we were delighted to **welcome our CEO, Mr Drew**, to St James Academy and proudly showcase all that makes our school such a special place. Throughout the day, he visited classrooms, spent time with our wonderful children and met members of our dedicated team, gaining a real insight into daily life at our academy. Our Pupil Leadership Team and Circle Leaders were especially excited to meet Mr Drew and eagerly shared the important roles they play in supporting our school community. They represented St James brilliantly and spoke with confidence, pride and enthusiasm about the positive difference they make each day.

  It was a pleasure to show Mr Drew the many fantastic things happening across our academy, and we are thrilled that he enjoyed his visit so much. We are already looking forward to welcoming him back before Christmas!

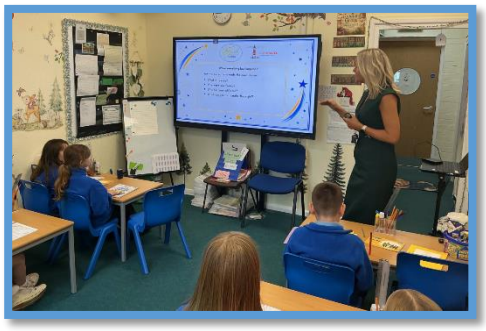






- It has been a real pleasure this week to meet with our **Pupil Leadership Team** and **Circle Leaders** as they completed their training. The children have approached their roles with great enthusiasm, maturity and a genuine determination to make a positive difference within our academy. It is wonderful to see the pride they take in their responsibilities, and their commitment to supporting others is truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of them and have no doubt that they will be outstanding ambassadors for our school throughout the year.







Share. Care. Believe. Achieve.

LIGHTHOUSE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Where children shoot for the stars and shine!

Headlines and Reminders:

- The children really enjoyed an evening of dancing, games and fun at our **Halloween Disco**. It was wonderful to see so many creative costumes on display, with the children making a fantastic effort and looking absolutely spooktacular! A special highlight of the event was our incredible pumpkin carving display. The children's imaginative pumpkins created a truly spooky atmosphere in the hall, adding the perfect Halloween touch and making the event feel even more special. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and helped make it such a memorable celebration for our children.

- We were absolutely delighted by the incredible entries received for our **Pumpkin Carving Competition** this year. The creativity, effort and imagination shown by the children were truly outstanding, with an amazing variety of spooky, fun and artistic designs on display. The competition attracted so many fantastic entries that our Pupil Leadership Team had the very difficult task of selecting the winners. They carefully considered each pumpkin, looking at the creativity, originality and effort involved. A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped create such a wonderful celebration of Halloween across our academy.

- The children had a wonderful time when **The Animal Man** visited school as part of their Good to be Green reward treat. There was great excitement throughout the day as the children had the opportunity to meet and learn about a variety of fascinating animals up close. They listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions and thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience. The visit was a well-deserved reward for the children's excellent behaviour and positive attitudes!

- A huge congratulations to **Year 2**, who are our first attendance winners of the half term! Their fantastic attendance and commitment to being in school every day earned them a well-deserved **'Cupcake and Popcorn Party.'** The children were delighted to celebrate together and thoroughly enjoyed their special treat. Excellent attendance plays such an important role in children's learning and success, and Year 2 have set a wonderful example for the rest of the school. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing which class will be crowned our next attendance champions next half-term!

- We would like to extend a very warm welcome to **Andy Morrison**, who has joined the St James team as our **new Site Manager.** Andy has already made a fantastic impression with his hardworking and dedicated approach, ensuring that our school environment remains safe, welcoming and well-maintained for everyone. His positivity, enthusiasm and willingness to help have quickly made him a valued member of our team, and we are delighted to have him as part of the St James family. We look forward to working with Andy and seeing the positive impact he will continue to make across our academy.

- Sunshine Academy – Forthcoming Consultation on Reception Admissions

  Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust will be consulting on a proposal to reduce the number of Reception places available at Sunshine Academy from 60 to 30, with effect from September 2028.

  The consultation will open on Monday 2 November 2026 and close on Monday 14 December 2026.

  Parents, carers and other interested parties will be welcome to share their views during this period.
  Full consultation documents, including details of the proposal and how to respond, will be available on the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust website from 2 November: https://lhmat.com/News/

Where children shoot for the stars and shine!

Our EYFS Stars of the Week

Nursery - Roman - for being absolutely amazing in maths. He knows all of his numbers and is always super quick to answer questions. He is so enthusiastic on the carpet and always has his hand up to share ideas.



Reception - Esmae - for trying so hard with her reading and writing. She listens so well and is just amazing!

Finley - for making a fantastic start to school life in Reception. He is working very hard inn all lessons and is extremely well-behaved.

Our KSI Stars of the Week

Year 1 - Grace & Isla - for writing a fantastic independent acrostic poem about dinosaurs. They worked so hard on the planning and composition of their poems. Keep up the amazing work!



Year 2 - Sanem - for showing such a fantastic attitude towards your learning every single day. You consistently work incredibly hard and give your best effort in everything that you do. You are a fantastic role model to others.

Where children shoot for the stars and shine!

Our Lower KS2 Stars of the Week



Year 3 - Olivia - for working really hard in English. She is becoming so much more independent. We are very proud!

Ollie - for having a great week. He always works hard and we have been very impressed with his handwriting, too.



Year 4 - Sana - for being a delight this week. She consistently shows what a kind, polite and thoughtful member of the class she is. She sets a fantastic example to others.

Lily - for seeing a real improvement in her behaviour, especially within PE lessons. She has been more focused and has made positive choices to help her get the most out of her learning.

Our Upper KS2 Stars of the Week



Year 5 - Lacie - for her fantastic work ethic and determination in every lesson. She approaches learning with a positive attitude, always giving her best effort and showing a real willingness to improve.

Ronnie - for consistently setting a fantastic example to others through his excellent behaviour and positive attitude. He is a wonderful role model to others and an absolute pleasure to teach.



Year 6 - Jaxon - for having such a wonderful week at school and showing a fantastic attitude towards your learning. You approach each lesson with enthusiasm, determination and a real desire to do your best. You are such a kind, polite and pleasant member of our school and a real pleasure to teach. Keep being your wonderful self!


St James Academy
Bonfire Experience!
Friday 6th November
We're offering a special bonfire experience for all children from Nursery to Year 6.
Each class will enjoy a special time around a campfire on the field.
We'll be toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate.
Children will enjoy den building!
We are asking for a donation of
£1.50
per child
to help cover the cost of this experience. This payment can be made on Arbor.
Arbor
What children will need:
Warm clothes
Gloves
A change of shoes
Thank you so much ♡
for your continued support!

St James Academy

Be here
Be amazing!

Every day counts!

Where children shoot for the stars and shine!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- **Monday 14th September** – Individual and sibling photographs
- **Friday 25th September** – MacMillan Coffee morning
- **Monday 28th September** – Harvest Food Donation

OCTOBER

- **October** – Black History Month
- **Friday 9th October** – Mental Health Day – wear yellow
- **Thursday 22nd October** – Halloween Disco
- **Friday 23rd October** – Popcorn Party for the class with the best attendance
- **Friday 23rd October** – Teddy Bear Collection for Xmas Fayre
- **Friday 23rd October** – Good to be Green Treat Day
- **Friday 23rd October** – Break-up at 3.15pm
- **Friday 31st October** – Deadline for secondary school applications

Half Term Week: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

NOVEMBER

- **Monday 2nd November** – Den Building Week for all years. (More information to follow).
- **Friday 6th November** – Xmas Fayre donations – cosmetics and toiletries
- **Thursday 12th November** – Parents' Evening and Book Fayre – school shuts at 1:30pm
- **Friday 13th November** – EYFS Poetry performance to families @ 2:30pm
- **Friday 13th November** – Children In Need & Xmas Fayre donations – bottles
- **Monday 16th November** – Anti-bullying week – Odd Socks Day
- **Wednesday 25th November** – Choir Performance at Forest Arts
- **Friday 20th November** – Xmas Fayre donations – chocolate
- **Monday 23rd November** – Assessment Week

DECEMBER

- **Friday 4th December** – Xmas Fayre and cake donations
- **Wednesday 9th December** – Xmas Family Lunch
- **Monday 14th December** – EYFS & KS1 Nativity
- **Friday 18th December** – Xmas Jumper Day & KS2 Carol concert
- **Friday 18th December** – Break up at 1.15pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January

JANUARY

- **Monday 4th January** – INSET Day
- **Tuesday 5th January** – Children return to school

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