

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a super first week back! All children have returned calm, refreshed and eager to learn and have centred their learning around the picture book 'Jabari Tries' by Gaia Cornwall. Along with their English, Maths and broader curriculum work, children have explored the themes of resilience and perseverance – do ask your children about their learning this week. We had a Church Service to welcome all children to school on Tuesday which explored the theme of Jesus as 'Light of the World' and also how we can all make our light shine. I'm happy to report we've had a super week – all are happy and settled in their new classes, particularly our Reception and Year 3 children who have handled their transitions and changes with great aplomb – well done to them!

Imminent 'dates for your diaries' letters will appear on weekly newsletters soon.

Gates – Drop offs and Collections

Many thanks for your co-operation and patience while waiting for children at the gates for collections at the end of the day. Things have been swift and efficient and will continue to be as class teachers know the faces of all their new parents and carers. At Alexis St please do wait outside the gates where your child/ren line up – i.e. Belgium, Years 3 & 4 use the gate nearest to the school building and Years 5 & the gate nearest to the garden/furthest from the school building.

Access at Alexis Street

Please note that there is NO access to Linsey street at drop off and collection times. Cars must be left before the entrance to Alexis St, by Macks Road. We still have the temporary barrier but soon the ANPR will be in force, and you will receive a ticket if you enter during the restricted times. The barrier is in place for the safety of all our children, and we thank you for your consideration.

Fit for Sport

We have had a number of enquiries about our before and after school provision, please follow this link to set up your account to enable you to book extended school club at KS2:

<https://www.fitforsport.co.uk/extended-school-clubs>

Medical Appointments

When possible, we would ask you make medical appointments after school or during school holidays. We know this will not always be possible, so if there is an appointment during the school day please try and bring your child into school before the appointment, and return to school afterwards. Please show the office staff the appointment card or text to confirm they so the absence can be authorised. Thank you for your co-operation.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's newsletter from Family Lives, with some information about being back at school:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-sept22?e=10e6384bfc> Newsletter – Friday 9th September 2022



Secondary School Applications/Appointments

Mrs Brenta will be available to assist with any secondary school applications in the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile, please do look at the Southwark Secondary brochure, which is available via our website, together with other information we may receive from secondary school:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=Secondary+School+Information&pid=81>

We have attached details of Southwark Secondary Schools Open Days/Evenings. They are also published on our web site. We do encourage you to take your child to look around some of the secondary schools to get a feel for which school would be right for your child. If they are attending during the normal school day please do let the office know they will be absent for a couple of hours, this will save us contacting you unnecessarily.

PE Days

A reminder of children's PE days, on which they should attend school WEARING their PE kits:

- Tuesdays – Years 1 & 2;
- Wednesdays – Years 3 & 4;
- Thursdays – Years 5, 6 & Reception.

Children in Belgium class at Key Stage Two should wear their PE kits according to their appropriate age-related year group above.

Absence Reporting

If your child is unable to attend school, please do let us know as soon as possible. As well as the more usual ways of reporting your child's absence from school (phone/email/text), we use a very efficient and secure system called 'Studybugs'. You can register on the website:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> or download the free Studybugs App.

Cycle skills

We will be holding various cycle initiatives over the coming with TfL. As you know, we have been on 'Gold' for our sustainable travel for a number of years and we actively encourage walking, cycling or scooting to and from school. There is lots of information via the following link on bikes and cycling: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/cycle-skills>

Parent Gym

We will be running the very popular Parent Gym (parenting course with great tips and shared ideas, not gymnastics!) very soon here in school. Look out for further details coming soon from Mrs Brenta who is trained to deliver this course.

Please also find attached details of local Football and Rugby coaching opportunities which are run on weekends should these be of interest to you and your child/ren.

Wishing you, the children and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 16th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

The children have all had a super first full week back to school and have all now started their new topics and class books. We've seen some really great learning so far and everyone is working really hard, reflected in our celebration assemblies this week! Our Collective Worship theme has focused our attention on 'New Starts' where we've learnt about and reflected on Zacchaeus and Levi. We have also been praying for and remembering Her Majesty the Queen and giving our thanks for her years of service. This morning, Vicar Gary led a very moving service as a fitting tribute to her on behalf of our school community. Next week we'll learn about some of the parables Jesus told and consider their important messages and how we can learn from these.

As we are all aware, the Queen's State Funeral on Monday (19th September) has been officially declared a national Bank Holiday, therefore school will be closed on Monday. We look forward to seeing the children return after this on Tuesday 20th September at normal school times – 08:55 (Alexis St) and 09:15 (Old Jamaica Road).

Alexis St Gates – Drop offs and Collections

Many thanks for your continued co-operation and patience while waiting for children at the gates for collections at the end of the day. Things have still been swift and efficient, however another reminder please to wait outside the gates where your child/ren line up – i.e. Belgium, Years 3 & 4 use the gate nearest to the school building and Years 5 & 6 the gate nearest to the garden/furthest from the school building. The gate nearer the school building gets quite congested at times so it's good to spread out and wait for a second until children have pointed you out to their teacher. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Secondary School Applications/Appointments

Mrs Brenta has appointments available on Wednesday 28th September to assist with the secondary school application process. Please email her on cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk to book a time slot. If this date is not convenient she will try and arrange another day in October. The deadline to apply is 31st October (first day back after Autumn half term).

PE Days/PE Kit

Another reminder of children's PE days, upon which they should attend school WEARING their PE kits: ***Tuesdays – Years 1 & 2; Wednesdays – Years 3 & 4; Thursdays – Years 5, 6 & Reception.*** Children in Belgium class at Key Stage Two should wear their PE kits according to their appropriate age-related year group above. We know our supplier doesn't have full availability of kit at the moment – I've told lots of parents and carers that plain, suitable PE clothes with a respectful nod to our uniform is fine and we completely understand this if you're having difficulty obtaining the uniform kit!

Yoga Lessons

Thanks to Mr. Brenta and his link to the London PE network, we've managed to book some Yoga lessons this half term which will start next week. On these days, children will need to wear their PE kits. Every child will have an hour-long lesson over a three-week period as below. Reception, Years 3 and 4 have their lessons on their normal PE days, however do note the dates for other year groups to wear PE kits to school for an additional day:

- **Tuesdays 20th Sept, 27th Sept and 4th Oct – Years 5 & 6 Yoga Lessons.** PE kit to be worn on these Tuesdays as well as Thursdays for PE.
- **Wednesdays 21st Sept, 28th Sept, 5th Oct – Years 3 & 4 Yoga Lessons.** PE kits worn as normal on Wednesdays; no change.
- **Thursdays 22nd Sept, 29th Sept & 6th Oct – Years Reception, 1 & 2 Yoga Lessons.** No change for Reception; normal PE day. Years 1 & 2 to wear PE kits on these additional Thursdays as well as their normal Tuesday PE days.

School Uniform

Thank you so much to most parents and carers who are sending children in looking smart and wearing full school uniform – as with PE kits, we know our supplier has had some issues with stock, but do remember plain burgundy jumpers/cardigans can be worn and are available from lots of high street stores. We do need children to be wearing plain black footwear – not black trainers with white or coloured details. Plain black plimsolls are acceptable if you are waiting to buy new school shoes. We are really understanding with uniform, and do keep it as cheap as possible for our school community and wearing coloured trainers is unfair on those parents and carers who make a huge effort to adhere to our policy. Thank you for your understanding.

Lost Property

We already have a few items of lost property, we are unable to return it to the rightful owner as it is not named. Please ensure you name every item of uniform and their coats/jackets/blazers.

SchoolsBuddy – Year 6 School Journey Payments

Many thanks to all the Year 6 parents that have already signed up to 'SchoolsBuddy' in preparation for paying the deposit for the children's residential trip which takes place in June 2023. If you haven't already done so, please check your emails, including your junk folder, for a registration invitation from SchoolsBuddy and follow the link. We will be emailing you details early next week on how to pay your first instalment which is due by the end of September.

Wishing you, the children and our whole school community a super weekend.

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a lovely (albeit shorter than usual) week and children continue to show some terrific learning and participation in lessons. All years from Reception to Year 6 have engaged in their first Yoga sessions delivered by the London PE Network and these will continue for the next two weeks (details below as reminders for PE kits). All year groups have also been busy with their Geography curriculum work and many have attended local field trips for this.

In our Collective Worship we've learnt about some of the parables Jesus told including that of 'The Good Samaritan' and considered their important messages and how we can learn from these. We've also begun to think about giving thanks in the lead up to Harvest at this time of year. Our next service in Church will be our Harvest Service at 09:30 on Monday 10th October. We'll ask for contributions of food nearer the time once we've been given a list of items needed from Church members for a local charity.

Drop-offs and Punctuality

Attendance is getting much better after fairly low figures across the school at the beginning of the year. Lateness is however still a problem, especially at Key Stage Two. Please do remember our start times – 08:55 at Alexis St and 09:15 at Old Jamaica Road. An increasing number of children are arriving late to school and this does eat into their learning time. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Wraparound Care Help

If you use breakfast and after school provision at either site you may be entitled to some help with childcare costs. For further information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

Secondary School Applications/Appointments

Mrs Brenta still has a few appointments available next Wednesday (28th September) to assist with the secondary school application process. Please email her on cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk to book a time slot. If this date is not convenient she will try and arrange another day in October. Remember the deadline to apply is 31st October (first day back after Autumn half term).

Tesco Community Token Scheme

The Community Token scheme finishes on 30th September. Please do add as many tokens as you are able to the collection box for St James' School.

Yoga Lessons

Another reminder that on the below days, children will need to wear their PE kits. Every child will have an hour-long lesson over a three-week period as below. Reception, Years 3 and 4 have their lessons on their normal PE days, however do note the dates for other year groups to wear PE kits to school for an additional day:

- **Tuesdays 27th Sept and 4th Oct – Years 5 & 6 Yoga Lessons.** PE kit to be worn on these Tuesdays as well as Thursdays for PE.
- **Wednesdays 28th Sept, 5th Oct – Years 3 & 4 Yoga Lessons.** PE kits worn as normal on Wednesdays; no change.
- **Thursdays 29th Sept & 6th Oct – Years Reception, 1 & 2 Yoga Lessons.** No change for Reception; normal PE day. Years 1 & 2 to wear PE kits on these additional Thursdays as well as their normal Tuesday PE days.

School Uniform

Another huge thank you so much to most parents and carers who are sending children in looking smart and wearing full school uniform – as with PE kits, we know our supplier has had some issues with stock, but do remember plain burgundy jumpers/cardigans can be worn and are available from lots of high street stores. We do need children to be wearing plain black footwear – not black trainers with white or coloured details. Plain black plimsolls are acceptable if you are waiting to buy new school shoes. We are really understanding with uniform, and do keep it as cheap as possible for our school community and wearing coloured trainers is unfair on those parents and carers who make a huge effort to adhere to our policy. Thank you for your understanding.

Next Week

More exciting things happening next week including: Year 3 road safety workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday; Reception, Years 1 & 2 'Kings & Queens' drama workshops at OJR on Tuesday and Year 4 Ghana's 'Young Marketeer' cooking workshop following on from their project with Mrs Brenta last year.

Do keep looking out for dates and events as we plan the calendar for the year; comprehensive 'save the date' lists will be attached as usual.

As always, we're wishing you, the children and our whole school community a lovely weekend.

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**

Newsletter 30th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a terrific week of learning and children continue to show some great participation in their lessons and activities. All years from Reception to Year 6 have continued to engage well in their Yoga sessions delivered by the London PE Network and these will continue next week (details below as reminders for PE kits). Year 3 children all took to the roads for special road safety workshops in our local community and 4 Ghana had a special cooking workshop as part of their 'Felix Project' link. All year groups have also been busy with their Science curriculum work.

In our Collective Worship we've continued to learn about some of the parables Jesus told including 'The Lost Sheep' & 'The Wise Man', considering their important messages and how we can learn from these. We've also begun to think about giving thanks in the lead up to Harvest at this time of year. Our next service in Church will be our Harvest Service at 09:30 on Monday 10th October. We'll ask for contributions of food next week once we've been given a list of items needed from Church members for a local charity.

Mr. Brooksbank's Maths Morning

Mr. Brooksbank (our Mathematics Teaching & Learning Lead) is warmly inviting parents and carers into school at both sites on Thursday 13th October to talk about how we teach Maths at St. James' and to enable you to see some teaching in progress. Do put this date in your diaries and join him then at the following times:

- **KS1(Years 1&2) at Old Jamaica Road:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in OJR hall at 09:30, visit classrooms around 09:50 and be finished by 10:15;
- **KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) at Alexis St:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in our Ground Floor hub at 11:00, visit classrooms at 11:15, finished by 11:45.

Yoga Lessons

Another reminder that on the below days, children will need to wear their PE kits. Every child will have an hour-long lesson as below. Reception, Years 3 and 4 have their lessons on their normal PE days, however do note the dates for other year groups to wear PE kits to school for an additional day:

- **Tuesday 4th Oct – Years 5 & 6 Yoga Lessons.** PE kit to be worn on these Tuesdays as well as Thursdays for PE.
- **Wednesday 5th Oct – Years 3 & 4 Yoga Lessons.** PE kits worn as normal on Wednesdays; no change.
- **Thursday 6th Oct – Years Reception, 1 & 2 Yoga Lessons.** No change for Reception; normal PE day. Years 1 & 2 to wear PE kits on these additional Thursdays as well as their normal Tuesday PE days.

Capoeira Lessons

In addition to Yoga, Mr. Brenta has organised for **Years 4, 5, & 6** to receive specialist Capoeira lessons for 2 weeks on **Monday 3rd October** and **Monday 10th October**. Please send your children in on these days wearing their PE Kits as with Yoga - in addition to their usual PE days. Children in Belgium class in years 4, 5 & 6 should wear PE kits on these days too. Thanks to Mr. Brenta for organising such great opportunities for the children!

Young Marketeers Project (School Food Matters)

Mrs Brenta will be at Borough Market with our Young Marketeers on Wednesday 5th October, from 11am - 1pm, selling fruit, vegetables and herbs - a lot of which has been grown in our school gardens. If you would like to visit them I am sure they would love to see some friendly faces! The money raised from the sale will go to 'The Felix Project' <https://thefelixproject.org> which 4 Ghana heard all about last year with assemblies and some children visiting the food depot in Deptford.

Secondary School Applications/Appointments

Mrs Brenta can offer one more date - Tuesday 18th October - to assist with secondary school applications. All applications **MUST** be submitted by October 31st. This is the first day back after half term and Mrs Brenta is not in school that day, so please ensure you have all the information you need before we break up. A number of you have asked about St Michael's Catholic College, and Mrs Brenta has this advice - if you are applying there you should read their Admissions Policy carefully, they are always over-subscribed and unless you are practicing Catholic, attending church regularly and can get your priest to sign the supplementary form, it is highly unlikely you will be offered a place. If you would like to talk to her, or require assistance applying for schools please do email her for an appointment: cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

There are some free workshops run by Southwark Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Service and the NHS for parents and Year 6 children. For further information please follow the links:

For Parents:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AMYpqkghpVmYWS0&cid=A12ABA91BAFEEB60&id=A12ABA91BAFEEB60%21156&parId=A12ABA91BAFEEB60%21155&o=OneUp>

For Year 6 Pupils:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AGxQGV9Yf0zYbZw&cid=A12ABA91BAFEEB60&id=A12ABA91BAFEEB60%21157&parId=A12ABA91BAFEEB60%21155&o=OneUp>

'Studybugs' – Reporting Absence

We continue to use this efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the

Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school. Top reasons to use Studybugs:

1. It helps us know sooner if your child is absent;
2. It's quick and easy to register and use, with automatic reminders;
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health. <https://studybugs.com/about/schools>

Cost of Living Crisis

All households are dealing with rising prices and Mrs Brenta has been investigating ways you may be able to get some assistance, and we will let you know through newsletters.

Help with Broadband Costs:

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, including Universal Credit, you may be eligible for help with broadband costs. Follow this link for further information,

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Packed Lunches

There are a very small number of children who have packed lunches; usually they are well-balanced with healthy food. As you are all aware, we do not permit any snacks to be brought in, children have free fruit every day for a snack. If your child is having a free healthy school lunch, please do not send in any additional snacks. Our menus are published on the website, and occasionally there may be a meal on offer that your child does not like, in this instance then please do send in a packed healthy lunch. We are currently working with School Food Matters, who are advising us further on healthy packed lunches.

Events Next Week

Next week, Year 3 are taking part in a special music session at Alexis St on Thursday from visiting professionals and Year 6 are all engaging in 'fix-a-bike' projects on Friday as part of our commitment to encourage sustainable travel. Capoeira (years 4, 5 & 6 on Monday) and Yoga lessons (as mentioned above) are happening too and we continue to be busy-busy! Do keep looking out for dates and events as we plan the calendar for the year; comprehensive 'save the date' lists will be attached as usual.

As always, we're wishing you, the children and our whole school community a super weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 7th October 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had another super week of learning and children continue to show some great participation in their lessons and activities. All years from Reception to Year 6 have continued to engage well in their Yoga sessions delivered by the London PE Network which have now finished after 3 weeks. Children in Years 4, 5 & 6 have taken part in Capoeira workshops and will continue next Monday (details below). Year 3 all took part in an exciting percussion music workshop on Thursday and Mrs Brenta took her 'Young Marketeers' to Borough Market to sell the produce they'd grown on Wednesday. Belgium class went on an interesting trip to the London Transport Museum on Tuesday. Year 6 have all taken part in 'fix-a-bike' workshops today as part of our commitment to sustainable travel. All year groups have also been busy with their Art & Design curriculum work this week as well as marking National Poetry Day with poetry today. In our Collective Worship we've continued to learn about some of the parables Jesus told including 'The Lost Son' & 'The Rich Fool', as well as giving thanks in the lead up to Harvest at this time of year. Next week we'll focus on Harvest as well as the power of prayer.

Harvest Service – St. James's Church, 09:30, Monday 10th October

Our next service in church will be our Harvest Service at 09:30 on Monday 10th October. Please refer to the e-mail sent earlier this week inviting everyone to this and also requesting donated items if you are able to do so. The list is re-attached to this newsletter for your reference too. Children can carry their own donations to church and place upon arrival.

Mr. Brooksbank's Maths Morning

Another reminder that Mr. Brooksbank (our Mathematics Teaching & Learning Lead) is warmly inviting parents and carers into school at both sites on Thursday 13th October to talk about how we teach Maths at St. James' and to enable you to see some teaching in progress. Do put this date in your diaries and join him then at the following times:

- **KS1(Years 1&2) at Old Jamaica Road:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in OJR hall at 09:30, visit classrooms around 09:50 and be finished by 10:15;
- **KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) at Alexis St:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in our Ground Floor hub at 11:00, visit classrooms at 11:15, finished by 11:45.

Capoeira Lessons

In addition to Yoga, Mr. Brenta has organised for **Years 4, 5, & 6** to receive specialist Capoeira lessons for 2 weeks on **Monday 10th October**. Please send your children in on these days wearing their PE Kits as with Yoga - in addition to their usual PE days. Children in Belgium class in years 4, 5 & 6 should wear PE kits on these days too. Thanks to Mr. Brenta for organising such great opportunities for the children!

Secondary School Applications/Appointments

Mrs Brenta can offer one more date - Tuesday 18th October - to assist with secondary school applications. All applications MUST be submitted by October 31st. This is the first day back after half term and Mrs Brenta is not in school that day, so please ensure you have all the information you need before we break up. A number of you have asked about St Michael's Catholic College, and Mrs Brenta has this advice - if you are applying there you should read their Admissions Policy carefully, they are always over-subscribed and unless you are practicing Catholic, attending church regularly and can get your priest to sign the supplementary form, it is highly unlikely you will be offered a place. If you would like to talk to her, or require assistance applying for schools please do email her for an appointment: cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

JDRF Diabetes Type 1 Fundraising Day

We have lots of fundraising events next half term and we have added another for the first week back, initiated by two of our families. On Friday 4th November (first Friday after half term) all children will be invited to wear blue in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 to support the important research of the above organisation aiming to improve the lives of those affected by Type 1 Diabetes. Two children in our school community do an amazing job living with this condition and we'd really like to support this, along with raising awareness in school to continue to support our children. Do check the 'dates for your diaries' letter for this and all the events coming up in Autumn 2.

TfL Travel Stars

We're delighted to announce that we have just been accredited with another GOLD star for the work we do to encourage safe, sustainable travel by Transport for London. Thank you as ever for your part in supporting this and of course, a HUGE thank you to Mrs Brenta for all she does with this too.

Lost Property

We have lots of lost property - especially at KS2. Very little is named so we are unable to return it to the rightful owner. Please make sure you name all school uniform.

Events Next Week

Our Harvest Service is in church at 09:30 on Monday followed by Years 4, 5 & 6 continuing their Capoeira sessions on Monday too (PE kits needed!). Year 4 are also being treated to a story-telling session delivered by Ivana from [@storying space](#) on Friday afternoon.

As always, we're wishing you, the children and our whole school community a lovely weekend.

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 14th October 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Things continue to be really buzzing with some super learning and great activities happening in every year group. Children in Year 4 are being treated to a story-telling session this afternoon from Ivana at @storying_space, all children took part in our Harvest Service on Monday – many thanks for your kind donations – and Mr. Brooksbank's Maths Morning was a huge success yesterday with many parents in attendance to see how we teach Maths. Many thanks to him for putting this together! All year groups have also been busy with their French and Relationships & Health Education (RHE) curriculum work this week. Next week, children will focus their attention on Black History Month topics as well as their RE curriculum learning. In our Collective Worship we've thought about the power of prayer, and next week we'll focus on Jesus's Miracles. The term is really flying and I can't believe we only have one week left before our Autumn half term! We break up next Friday (21st October) at normal school times and are back on Monday 31st October.

SchoolsBuddy Booking – Old Jamaica Road Wraparound Care

Thank you to everyone at Old Jamaica Road who is using SchoolsBuddy to manage their bookings for Breakfast and After School Club. The system allows you to book and cancel sessions in advance, as required. Next term's dates will be released at the end of half term week. It is important for you to cancel bookings which you no longer need, for example when your child is sick and will not attend. You can cancel a session up to the minute before it starts which should allow you plenty of time. This will automatically return the fee paid to your SchoolsBuddy parent wallet for use on another occasion. Step-by-step instructions on how to book and cancel sessions on the app are posted on our website:

<https://www.stjamessschoolbermondsey.com/afterschoolclub?action=saved>.

Greenpeace Poetry Competition

A huge well done to all the children for the fantastic poems they wrote as part of our National Poetry Day celebration. Miss Boyd has selected some of the best ones to be entered into the Greenpeace 'Poems for the Planet' competition – a special 'well done' to: 3 Sweden – Michelle & Fred; 3 Norway – Heidi, Isla & Bryan; 4 Kenya – Bhakti, Dolly, Abigail & Shayleigh-Mae; 4 Ghana – Jessica & Saleel-Pierre; 5 Japan – Ruby, Colin, Levi & Metehan; 5 India – Stefany, Nike, Iyanna & Onyeka.

Parent Gym Taster Session

Have you heard of Parent Gym? Yes or no - then come along to the taster session on Wednesday 19th October, 09:30 at Old Jamaica Road to meet with Mrs Brenta, who will be running the course. This session will give you a taste of what is to come on the six-week course due to start after half term. For more information, go to Parent Gym by following this link: <https://parentgym.com/> We have run this very popular course a number of times now and every time the participants - our parents and carers - take so much from it: new friends, practical tips and ideas to help with parenting, e.g., how to chat with your child, routines, family time together and lots more! If you'd like some recommendations, we have many parents who have benefited from Parent Gym and would be happy to share their experience with you. Please contact Mrs Brenta if you'd like further information.

Newsletter – Friday 14th October 2022

JDRF Diabetes Type 1 Fundraising Day

We have lots of fundraising events next half term including one to be aware of during the first week back, initiated by two of our families. On Friday 4th November (first Friday after half term)

all children will be invited to wear blue in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 to

support the important research of the above organisation aiming to improve the lives of those affected by Type 1 Diabetes. Two children in our school community do an amazing job living with this condition and we'd really like to support this, along with raising awareness in school to continue to support our children. Do check the 'dates for your diaries' letter for this and all the events coming up in Autumn 2 and beyond.

Cost of Living Crisis Tips

If you have a grandparent caring for your children there is a benefit, which has previously been little-known, called 'Specified Adult Childcare'. Grandparents, as well as other family members, may be entitled to National Insurance credits if they care for a child in their family under 12 while their main parent or carer is working. If you're eligible due to childcare responsibilities, you will receive an NI credit for each week or part of the week you care for the child - these credits help to build your entitlement to the State Pension. For further details, follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-insurance-credits-for-adultswho-care-for-a-child-under-12-fact-sheet/specified-adult-childcare-credits-factsheet#eligibility>

If you have a child under 4 or are pregnant you may be eligible for 'Healthy Start' vouchers.

Follow this link for further details:

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>

If you live in post codes SE1, SE5, SE15 or SE17 you may be eligible for 'Rose Vouchers', follow this link for further details: <https://www.alexandrarose.org.uk/rosevouchers/how-it-works/>

Please also find attached a coffee morning flier from the charity <https://www.getridofitdonate.com/> for ideas of how to help others who are struggling.

Events Next Week

Do remember, parents and carers of Year 6 children who need help with the secondary school process can ask Mrs Brenta for assistance on Tuesday 18th October – do e-mail her to make an appointment. Also remember Mrs Brenta's Parent Gym taster session as per the details above. We break up for a week-long holiday for Autumn half term next Friday - 21st October. If any of you have ideas for half term activities or holiday clubs, do share them so I can put on next week's newsletter for all our families.

As always, we're wishing you, the children and our whole school community a super weekend. God bless, from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of a successful first half term of the academic year and we've had lots of super learning and lovely events happening. We were happy to welcome Belgium parents and carers into their class yesterday to have a look at their learning and we're really looking forward to our parents' evenings and open evening next half term where you'll get to hear all about and see your child's learning for the Autumn term. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around the Miracles of Jesus and we've thought about their significance and how we can apply Jesus's teachings to our lives today.

Remember, we break up for a week today and we are back to school at usual times on Monday 31st October.

SchoolsBuddy Booking – Parents' Evenings During Autumn Term 2

Following our successful use of SchoolsBuddy, the online booking system, we have decided to extend its use to booking slots for Parents' Evenings. It will allow our busy families to book their consultation slots at any time of the day (or night!) once they become available and avoid having to queue in the rain to sign a paper sheet or ring the office to try and reserve your time slot. The parents' evenings next half term are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 23rd November for Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2;
- Wednesday 30th November for Belgium/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

Both events will be held in the hall at our Old Jamaica Road site. Those of you not already registered with SchoolsBuddy for wraparound care or the Year 6 residential trip will soon be receiving an emailed registration invitation. Make sure you check your spam & junk boxes for an email directly from SchoolsBuddy. Please take time to register, set your password and download the SchoolsBuddy app on your device in preparation for when the bookings go live. Slots go quickly and it will be great if all our parents are ready to log onto the app to reserve their time slot once bookings go live. You will be notified when the events go live, it will be soon after we return for the new term.

Parent Gym

Thank you to those who came to the taster session on Wednesday. If you would like to join Parent Gym, we will start the 6-week programme on Wednesday 9th November at 09:30 at Alexis Street, but please feel free to come as soon as you have dropped your child/ren at school. We will start with breakfast every week and on our final week will have a shared lunch to celebrate! Week one is 'Chat - Talking and listening to your child in a positive way every day.' Further weeks are Love, Behave, Care, Discover and finally Together. Parent Gym is NOT an exercise class - it is a wonderful Parenting course, follow this link for further information <https://parentgym.com/> or call Mrs Brenta, who will tell you more about it. We have run this programme a number of times here in school and all parents/carers who have attended (and some have done it more than once!) will tell you how beneficial it has been to their family life. Mrs Brenta would love to see you!

JDRF Diabetes Type 1 Fundraising Day

Another reminder that we have lots of fundraising events next half term including one to be aware of during the first week back, initiated by two of our families. On Friday 4th November (first Friday after half term) all children will be invited to wear blue in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 to support the important research of the above organisation aiming to improve the lives of those affected by Type 1 Diabetes. Two children in our school community do an amazing job living with this condition and we'd really like to support this, along with raising awareness in school to continue to support our children. Do check the 'dates for your diaries' letter for this and all the events coming up in Autumn 2 and beyond.

Theatre Performances and Trips in Autumn Term 2

You'll have seen from the 'dates for your diaries' attachment that all children in EYFS and KS1 are being treated to a live performance from Booster Cushion Theatre next half term. We've also just managed to secure bookings for ALL children from years 3-6 to visit the Unicorn Theatre to see their production of 'Pinocchio' next half term too! **Please do note the following dates in advance for each year group** as Belgium and years 4-6 will be late back to school on these days. Year 3 are watching a 13:00 performance so they should be back to school for the usual finish time.

- Thurs 17th Nov - Year 3;
- Tues 22nd Nov - Year 4;
- Tues 29th Nov - Year 5;
- Weds 30th Nov - Belgium;
- Tues 13th Dec - Year 6.

Further reminders will be sent nearer the time.

Family Lives Newsletter

For the latest newsletter from family Lives please follow this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-oct22?e=10e6384bfc>

Events for Half Term

There are two fliers attached for half term family events which parents have passed on to us – one is for an Everyone Active event, another is being held at Dockhead Fire Station. We haven't been able to find much else re activities and family events locally, however I'm sure you'll all pass on things to friends and other families should you find them.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a really lovely, restful half term. Have lots of fun – chat, share books, visit a library and a park and reflect upon your child/ren's incredible achievements this half term!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 4th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's lovely to see everyone after our Autumn half term break, everyone seems refreshed and raring to go for a busy and productive Autumn term 2! This week has seen some of our Year 6 children attend their Scholar's Programme at King's College – both the Waterloo and Strand campuses – for lectures and the beginning of their university course. Today all children at Key Stage Two have begun their violin lessons and have really enjoyed either continuing with their instruments or starting to learn to play for the first time. Belgium children had a super trip out promoting safe and sustainable travel on Wednesday and it's really great to see such engagement and generosity for today's 'wear blue' non-uniform day in aid of JDRF today – further details below.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around kindness where we've thought about love in all its different forms, including the love Jesus shows us all. Next week we'll focus on Remembrance and children will attend their Remembrance service on Friday 11th November at 09:30. Parents and carers are welcome to attend this in St. James's Church where all children from Years 1-6 will be. Year 3 Norway will attend a memorial service at West Lane later in the morning instead of our service.

JDRF Diabetes Type 1 Fundraising Day

We're so pleased to support the important research of the above organisation aiming to improve the lives of those affected by Type 1 Diabetes. Two children in our school community do an amazing job living with this condition and we're so very grateful for your enthusiasm, kindness and generosity today! We're going to organise another event in the Spring term for this organisation and the work they do. For more information, do visit JDRF's website:

<https://jdrf.org.uk/>

SchoolsBuddy Booking – Parents' Evenings During Autumn Term 2

Thanks to Mrs Davies for setting up this booking system – it seems to be working really well and slots are being taken for parent/carers consultations. The parents' evenings this half term are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 23rd November for Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2;
- Wednesday 30th November for Belgium/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

Both events will be held in the hall at our **Old Jamaica Road site.**

Speech & Language Therapy at St. James'

You'll see attached a letter from Maria and Sarah, our Speech and Language therapists who work with many children across both sites. Please note an invitation to a welcome morning at Old Jamaica Road on Thursday 17th November. Separate invitations will be sent to parents and carers whose children work with Maria and Sarah, however do see this letter so you recognise both their faces and know who they are should they need to meet you to discuss your child/ren's progress at any time.

Parent Gym

The course will start on Wednesday 9th November, at Alexis St, with Mrs. Brenta. Please do join from 09:00 for breakfast, and we will begin at 09:30. The first week is 'Chat - How to listen so your child will talk'. There will be lots of fun activities, time to talk, hints and tips on parenting, and a safe social group where we can share successes. Do come along to hear what it is all about, or call Mrs Brenta for further details. She would love to see you there!

Theatre Performances and Trips this Term

Another reminder - **please do note the following dates in advance for each year group** as Belgium and years 4-6 will be late back to school on these days. Year 3 are watching a 13:00 performance so they should be back to school for the usual finish time.

- Thurs 17th Nov - Year 3;
- Tues 22nd Nov - Year 4;
- Tues 29th Nov - Year 5;
- Weds 30th Nov - Belgium;
- Tues 13th Dec - Year 6.

Further reminders will be sent nearer the time.

iPads/ICT Equipment

During lockdown we were very fortunate to receive additional devices for those who needed them. After some careful reorganisation we find that a limited number of our older iPads are now surplus to requirement within school and we would like to offer these to children who would benefit most from having their own device at home. The iPads will be completely cleared of all content and we will ask recipients to sign an acceptance of ownership for them. You would then be able to sign into your own iTunes account and buy apps and content as you deem appropriate for your child. You will need to purchase your own charging cable for the unit. Mrs Davies has asked me to convey that some of the cases are a little worn but these in no way reflect the condition of the iPad housed within, in fact they have all been separated from their original covers to give them all a good clean before we offer them out to you and they are offered to you in working order although their age may prevent compatibility with some of the newer apps.

Please let us know if you think your family would benefit from one of these devices, there are a limited number but we will do our best to consider all requests. We are hoping to get the majority of them donated by the end of this term.

Events Next Week

Armistice Service as above, Year 4 to the Museum of London on Monday, Year 6 Scholar's Programme continues; Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) practice.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend!

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**

Newsletter 11th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Things are buzzing and busy-busy in school! This week has seen some of our Year 6 children continue with their Scholar's Programme as part of their King's College university course. Today all children at Key Stage Two continue with their violin lessons which will happen each Friday. Year 4 had a terrific trip to the Museum of London on Monday as part of their History topic and all children today attended our Armistice service in St. James's Church. Instead of this, 3 Norway attended the West Lane memorial service and 3 Sweden went to the Kirby Estate earlier in the week to take part in and contribute to some Remembrance Poppy art on display. Library visits are in full swing again which children are really enjoying; it's great to be back to the Blue Anchor Library for story-telling sessions and book choosing.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around Remembrance. Next week we'll focus our attention on some 'Heroes of the Faith' in the form of Noah, Joshua and Abraham.

JDRF Diabetes Type 1 Fundraising Day

As promised, we're thrilled to announce the total raised for last week's fundraising day for JDRF was an incredible £600.61! We're so grateful for your enthusiasm, kindness and generosity today and we're going to organise another event in the Spring term for this organisation and the work they do. For more information, do visit JDRF's website: <https://jdrf.org.uk/>

SchoolsBuddy Booking – Parents' Evenings During Autumn Term 2

Another reminder to keep booking parents' evening slots using our online system – it seems to be working really well and slots are being taken for parent/carers consultations. The parents' evenings this half term are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 23rd November for Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2;
- Wednesday 30th November for Belgium/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

Both events will be held in the hall at our **Old Jamaica Road site**.

Individual School Photo Day

You'll have seen from the 'dates for your diaries' letters that children will be able to have their individual photos taken at both sites on Wednesday 23rd November. All children will have an individual photo taken during school hours. If you have children who have a sibling/s at another site, you will be able to bring children to either site from 08:15 on the day. We won't mind on this day if children are late to school to accommodate this. If your children have siblings at the same site, we can arrange for them to have photos together on the day. Please do e-mail Mrs Fox via office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk if you'd like siblings to have photos together. We cannot switch children between sites during the school day, this must be done by parents/carers before school from 08:15. Years 3 & 4 have PE on a Wednesday – please do send children in with full uniform on this day for their photos. We will allow trainers and Mr. Brenta will adapt his PE lessons accordingly since children will not be wearing PE kits. Photos will be able to view and purchase online and have delivered to your homes soon after.

Theatre Performances and Trips this Term

Another reminder - **please do note the following dates in advance for each year group** as Belgium and years 4-6 will be late back to school on these days. Year 3 are watching a 13:00 performance so they should be back to school for the usual finish time.

- Thurs 17th Nov - Year 3;
- Tues 22nd Nov - Year 4;
- Tues 29th Nov - Year 5;
- Weds 30th Nov - Belgium;
- Tues 13th Dec - Year 6.

Further reminders will be sent nearer the time.

Tours of OJR for Reception 2023 Applicants

We have had two successful open mornings for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2023. We have had a lot more requests following these and have added another open morning – Tuesday 22nd November at 09:30. A space can be booked via the main page on our school website. Do attend or spread the word to any families you know with children starting Reception next academic year.

Tesco Community Grant

We are delighted to let you know that following the Tesco Community Grant vote in our local Tesco stores, our project came **first** and has been chosen by Tesco customers to receive a grant award of £1,500.00! We will be using this grant towards our ongoing whole school Healthy Eating initiative. Thank you to all of you who put the blue tokens into our box at local Tesco stores.

Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

Next Friday, 18th November, children are again invited to wear non-uniform in support of Children in Need and the amazing work they do. We ask as usual for a suggested donation of £1.00 or whatever you can spare. Lots of children like to wear 'Pudsey' inspired accessories or design their own t-shirts etc for this day too which is always gladly welcomed! We know money is tight for many at the moment and put no pressure on our community for donations. We do also think that as money is so tight, it's really important to keep our charitable endeavours which become even more important than ever at times such as these.

Road Safety Week 2022 – 14th - 20th November

This year the theme is 'SAFE ROADS FOR ALL', bringing together communities and professionals to speak out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads. This is designed to raise awareness of key areas of road safety including safe roads, safe vehicles and speeds, the new hierarchy of road users, and the importance of inclusivity to keep us all safe on the roads, no matter who we are, or how we travel. We have some activity sheets for the children to complete next week while they walk to school every day. If your child normally comes by car, we would encourage you to leave the car and walk to school – especially next week. If they complete the activity sheets and name them, they can hand them in for Mrs Brenta to see and one will be chosen out of a hat and a prize will be given at each site.

'One Day Creative' – Anti-Bullying Week Workshops

Next week, outside professionals will join us to deliver special workshops to all children from Reception - Year 6 promoting kindness, tolerance and social intelligence. We're sure our children will enjoy their collaborative workshops and work brilliantly together during these.

Cost of Living Crisis

Here is a link to Southwark Council's website and how they are supporting residents:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/cost-of-living-support/help-with-food-and-household-essentials>

Attendance Trip to Surrey Quays Odeon – 2 Spain and 1 Germany

The above classes will be going to the cinema next Tuesday afternoon for the top two classes at Key Stage One for attendance in Autumn term 1! Very well done to them for such great attendance. Two classes from Key Stage Two will have a similar trip the following week.

London PE Network Dance Classes

Years 4, 5 & 6 will take part in two weeks' worth of dance sessions from next Friday delivered by the PE network. As these days are non-uniform days, do ensure children wear trainers/suitable footwear for dance.

Events Next Week – ANOTHER VERY BUSY ONE!

'One Day Creative' Anti-Bullying Week workshops for all children from Reception – Year 6 from Monday – Thursday; 2 Spain and 1 Germany to cinema for an attendance award trip on Tuesday afternoon; Mrs Brenta's Parent Gym will continue on Wednesday; King's College Hospital are delivering 'Teddy Bears Hospital' to Reception and Year 1 children, promoting healthy bodies and lifestyles; some Year 6 children will attend St. Anthony's Prep schools in Hampstead for interview practice and technique for independent school interviews on Thursday; Year 3 are all visiting the Unicorn for their production of 'Pinocchio' on Thursday afternoon – they should be back for normal school times; children in Years 4, 5 & 6 will start a course of Dance lessons at Alexis St on Friday delivered by the London PE Network; all children can wear non-uniform on Friday in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 for Children in Need; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a Bird Man visiting on Friday with Birds of Prey to show the children in their classes; year 6 Scholar's Programme continues; Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) practice.

Do keep checking our newsletters and dates letters – as you can see, we have a lot of events and trips etc and it's good for us all to be aware of when everything is happening. A further amended 'dates for your diaries' letter is attached.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 18th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another really full, fun and busy week! 'One Day Creative' Anti-Bullying Week workshops for all children from Reception – Year 6 were really thought-provoking; 2 Spain and 1 Germany enjoyed their cinema attendance award trip on Tuesday; King's College Hospital delivered a 'Teddy Bears Hospital' to Reception and Year 1 children, promoting healthy bodies and lifestyles; some Year 6 children attended St. Anthony's Prep schools in Hampstead for interview practice and technique with Miss Hannaway; Year 3 all visited the Unicorn for their production of 'Pinocchio' yesterday; children in Years 4, 5 & 6 are starting a course of Dance lessons at Alexis St today delivered by the London PE Network; we're enjoying non-uniform and 'Pudsey' inspired clothes today in aid of Children in Need (thanks as always for your kindness and generosity); Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a Bird Man visiting today with Birds of Prey to show the children in their classes; our year 6 Scholar's Programme continues; Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) practice continue to go well and our library visits are always enjoyed by all who attend!

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around some 'Heroes of the Faith' in the form of Noah, Joshua and Abraham. Next week we'll continue and think about David, Lydia and Samuel and all these heroes could do when they put their faith in God.

SchoolsBuddy Booking – Parents' Evenings During Autumn Term 2

Another reminder to keep booking parents' evening slots using our online system – it seems to be working really well and slots are being taken for parent/carers consultations. The parents' evenings start next Wednesday for this half term and are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 23rd November for Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2;
- Wednesday 30th November for Belgium/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

Both events will be held in the hall at our **Old Jamaica Road site**.

Individual School Photo Day

You'll have seen from the 'dates for your diaries' letters that children will be able to have their individual photos taken at both sites on Wednesday 23rd November. All children will have an individual photo taken during school hours. If you have children who have a sibling/s at another site, you will be able to bring children to either site from 08:15 on the day. We won't mind on this day if children are late to school to accommodate this. If your children have siblings at the same site, we can arrange for them to have photos together on the day. Please do e-mail Mrs Fox via office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk if you'd like siblings to have photos together. We cannot switch children between sites during the school day, this must be done by parents/carers before school from 08:15. Years 3 & 4 have PE on a Wednesday – please do send children in with full uniform on this day for their photos. We will allow trainers and Mr. Brenta will adapt his PE lessons accordingly since children will not be wearing PE kits.

Photos will be able to view and purchase online and have delivered to your homes soon after.

Theatre Performances and Trips this Term

Another reminder - **please do note the following dates in advance for each year group** as Belgium and years 4-6 will be late back to school on these days. **The performances start at 14:30 and last approximately 1 hour 40 mins, so children should be back to Alexis St close to 16:30.**

- Tues 22nd Nov - Year 4;
- Tues 29th Nov - Year 5;
- Weds 30th Nov - Belgium;
- Tues 13th Dec - Year 6.

Further reminders will be sent nearer the time.

Tours of Old Jamaica Road for Reception 2023 Applicants

We have had two successful open mornings for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2023. We have had a lot more requests following these and have added another open morning next week – **Tuesday 22nd November at 09:30**. A space can be booked via the main page on our school website. Do attend or spread the word to any families you know with children starting Reception next academic year.

Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

Thanks again for your kindness and generosity, ensuring we can support worthwhile charities and causes at this time of year. Again, we say that we know money is tight for many at the moment and put no pressure on our community for donations.

Non-Uniform Day in aid of Pecan Foodbank – Friday 25th November

Another optional non-uniform day next Friday. Children can wear non-uniform in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 for our local Pecan Foodbank. Please note, we are not taking food donations – if you have food donations and would rather give in that way, please check their website to see how you can: <https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwark-foodbank/>

Tower Bridge for Southwark residents

If you are a resident in Southwark, you can visit Tower Bridge for just £1.00! For a Tower Bridge community ticket, follow this link to book:

<https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/plan-your-visit/community-ticket>

Attendance Trip to Surrey Quays Odeon – 4 Ghana and 6 Brazil

The above classes will be going to the cinema next Wednesday afternoon for the top two classes at Key Stage Two for attendance in Autumn term 1! Very well done to them for such great attendance. Timings for the school day won't be affected by this trip.

London PE Network Dance Classes

Years 4, 5 & 6 are taking part in two weeks' worth of dance sessions from today delivered by the PE network. As these days are non-uniform days, do ensure children wear trainers/suitable footwear for dance.

Parent Support Adviser

A timely reminder of Mrs. Brenta, and the work she does in her role as Parent Support Adviser. She is available to talk to any parent, in confidence, should you need her. She will be

able to signpost you to other areas of help, in or out of school, depending on your need. She can assist with attendance or punctuality issues, housing support, uniform grants, basic furniture or clothing needs, letters of support for citizenship, food bank referrals, short family breaks, clothing bank referrals etc. These are just some of the things she can support you with, please do contact her, cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk to arrange a chat over a coffee.

Punctuality

We have noticed again a number of children are arriving increasingly late every morning. It may seem like 10 minutes isn't really that much, but for a typical school day of 6.5 hours, a pupil who is late by 10 minutes every day will miss 30 hours of school time over the year. The impact on the class is even larger, as if more than one pupil is late the whole class get disrupted more than once. Being late means your child may miss vital information and more importantly their learning time, meaning they have to try and catch up with the rest of the class, and of course the teacher will not always have time to repeat what has already been taught. This is a problem across both sites. We do know and completely understand that sometimes it is unavoidable, and a call or text/e-mail to the office to let us know means we won't be chasing you to see why your child is not in school, so please do let us know if there is an unavoidable delay and you are running late. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Events Next Week – ANOTHER BUSY ONE!

Tuesday: Year 4 trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see 'Pinocchio'. Note a late arrival back to school on this day – approx. 16:30.

Additional Reception tour for prospective Reception parents and carers for September 2023 starters. 09:30 at OJR.

Wednesday: Individual Photo Day – all children to have their individual photos taken. FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM PLEASE!

Year 4 Ghana and Year 6 Brazil Cinema trips for 1st and 2nd place attendance during Autumn term 1.

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Parents' Evening in the OJR hall.

Thursday: Reception to the Barbican Centre for London Symphony Orchestra's 'Peter & the Wolf' concert'.

Friday: Non-uniform day in aid of the local Pecan food bank – suggested donation of £1.00 to raise money for their work in the community.

Do keep checking our newsletters and dates letters – as you can see, we have a lot of events and trips etc and it's good for us all to be aware of when everything is happening. A further amended 'dates for your diaries' letter is attached.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 25th November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We continue to be really busy with trips and visits to extend our learning. Year 4 visited the Unicorn Theatre to see 'Pinocchio' on Tuesday; 6 Brazil and 4 Ghana went to the cinema on Wednesday; Reception visited the Barbican to see the London Symphony Orchestra play 'Peter & the Wolf' yesterday; our EYFS and KS1 Parents' Evening was really well attended on Wednesday; KS2 Dance lessons continue and our non-uniform day in aid of our local Pecan Food Bank today has seen lots of generous support. Our year 6 Scholar's Programme continues; Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) practice continue to go well and our library visits are always enjoyed by all who attend!

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has continued around some 'Heroes of the Faith' in the form of David, Lydia and Samuel and all these heroes could do when they put their faith in God. Next week we'll begin to think about Advent.

Key Stage Two Parents' Evening – Wednesday 30th November 2022

It was super to see so many parents and carers attend our Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One Parents' Evening this week. Another reminder to keep booking parents' evening slots using our online system for Key Stage Two next week – it seems to be working really well and slots are being taken for parent/carers consultations. This is scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 30th November for Belgium/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

Please do note this will be held in the hall at our **Old Jamaica Road site – SE16 4SU**.

Open Evening – Wednesday 7th December 2022

In addition to our parents' evenings, do remember to attend our open evening on Wednesday 7th December. After children have been collected from the playground gates, you will be able to have them take you to their classrooms to see where they learn and look at their books which will be laid out in their spaces. It was really lovely to have this in the Summer and we hope you all enjoy visiting this time too to see all the children have learnt during the Autumn term! While class teachers will be around, please do be mindful of the fact that we have already had both parents' evenings and that they won't be able to discuss anything further at length. **You will be able to visit from the end of the school day until 17:45 at both sites.**

Theatre Performances and Trips this Term

Another reminder - **please do note the following dates in advance for each year group** as Belgium and years 5 & 6 will be late back to school on these days. **The performances start at 14:30 and last approximately 1 hour 40 mins, so children should be back to Alexis St close to 16:30.** Further reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- Tues 29th Nov - Year 5;
- Weds 30th Nov - Belgium;
- Tues 13th Dec - Year 6.

'Crazy Hair' Non-Uniform Day – Friday 2nd December 2022

Always enjoyed by all, next Friday is our annual 'Crazy Hair Day' and non-uniform day for a donation for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. As always, we suggest a small donation of £1.00 however do give whatever you feel you can afford; children are always welcome to join with any events/non-uniform days regardless.

Step Ahead – Support for Parents in Southwark

Please see a flyer attached from an organisation called 'Step Ahead', a recruitment company aimed at parents, in order to gain access to hundreds of flexible, family-friendly jobs. In addition, Step Ahead provides advice and guidance in respect of childcare & benefits available for every parent they support. Their services are provided completely free of charge.

Winter of Food and Fun Programme

Please see the attached flyer and registration form for further details. The Programme is from Monday 19th December to Thursday 22nd December. Parents interested in joining the programme should fill in the attached form and sent it back to Andrea Ingrassia. Please note that in order to book a place, parents will need to have at least a child aged 5- 11 years. Families with 4 year-old children who are currently attending Reception class can apply too. There is limited space to accommodate younger siblings. Activities will include cooking, sport and games, dancing, arts and crafts and presents and prizes for all participants. Parents will have to stay with their children during the sessions.

King's College Hospital Dental Advice for Parents and Carers

Please find attached a flyer and MS Teams invitation/link to a 'coffee morning' inviting all parents and carers to attend for advice for dental care for your child/ren.

Family Lives Newsletter

Here is the link for the latest newsletter from the charity Family Lives:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-nov22?e=10e6384bfc>

Events Next Week

ASSESSMENT WEEK ALL WEEK. As always, we ask that children do their best and show us all they have learnt so far this term in a range of tests. These are always conducted in comfortable environments with necessary rest breaks and no pressure. I'm sure they'll all do amazingly well next week!

Tuesday: Year 5 to the Unicorn Theatre to see 'Pinocchio' as above.

Wednesday: Key Stage 2 Parents' Evening in the OJR hall. Belgium to the Unicorn Theatre to see 'Pinocchio' as above.

Friday: 'Crazy Hair' and non-uniform day in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Do keep checking our newsletters and dates letters – as you can see, we have a lot of events and trips etc and it's good for us all to be aware of when everything is happening. A further amended 'dates for your diaries' letter is attached.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 2 December 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Children have amazed us this week and worked really hard to show us all they have learnt this term in our first Assessment Week of the academic year. As well as this, Year 5 and Belgium class have attended the Unicorn to see 'Pinocchio'; our Year 6 Scholar's Programme has continued; our violin and recorder lessons are still going well and PE and Performing Arts continue to go really well too. Miss Jess is busy rehearsing with everyone for Christmas performances and our 'Crazy Hair' non-uniform day in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity today has seen lots of generous support. Children are also really enjoying their visits to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book choosing sessions.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has focused on Advent, where we've thought about 'The Birth Foretold', when Mary visited Elizabeth and exploring the meaning of 'Immanuel' or 'God with us'. Next week we'll focus our attention more on the events leading up to Jesus's birth and the very first Christmas.

Vicar Gary's Final Church Service – Sunday 4th December 2022

You will know by now that Gary Jenkins has been offered an important new role and will be leaving his position as vicar at St. James's Church. This week he delivered his final act of Collective Worship in school and his final service in church will be this Sunday at 11:00. He has warmly invited any parents, carers or members of the school community to join for this. Gary has been our vicar for 10 years and we thank him so much for all he has brought to our church and school during that time. Happily for us, he will continue to be our Chair of Governors for the foreseeable future.

Open Evening – Wednesday 7th December 2022

Thank you to so many of you for attending our parents' evenings for the past two weeks. As advertised, in addition to these, do remember to attend our open evening next week on Wednesday 7th December. After children have been collected from the playground gates, you will be able to have them take you to their classrooms to see where they learn and look at their books which will be laid out in their spaces. It was really lovely to have this in the Summer and we hope you all enjoy visiting this time too to see all the children have learnt during the Autumn term! While class teachers will be around, please do be mindful of the fact that we have already had both parents' evenings and that they won't be able to discuss anything further at length. You will be able to visit from the end of the school day until 17:45 at both sites.

Christmas Jumper/Festive Non-Uniform Day – Friday 9th December 2022

Next Friday, please encourage children to be as festive as they like for our Christmas jumper/non-uniform day. We do not ask for any donations for charities on this day; it's just a day to be festive as many of you request a chance to wear Christmas jumpers etc. We thank you again for all your kindness and generosity helping us to support several good causes in the last few weeks – we'll announce how much money has been raised for each cause along with a grand total before we break up for Christmas. Please note – on the final Friday of term (16th December), children will wear normal, smart school uniform as usual as they will be attending their Christmas church service.

Newsletter – Friday 2nd December 2022

Events Next Week

Children will be engaged with their Christmas and RE learning all next week.

Wednesday: Open evening at both sites – go into children's learning environments with them to see their books and learning for the Autumn term. You will be able to do this until 17:45; both sites close for the evening at 18:00.

Friday: Christmas Jumper/Festive non-uniform day. NO donations for charities on this day.

Christmas Events – Final Week of Term – Note these events and join us for our

Christmas performances during the final week!

Monday 12th December: Nursery Christmas Morning – parents and carers invited to join their children in the OJR hall from 09:30-11:00.

Monday 12th December: Reception Nativity and Christmas songs in the OJR hall at 14:00. All Reception parents and carers welcome to attend.

Tuesday 13th December: Year 6 trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see ‘Pinocchio’. Note a late arrival back to school on this day – 16:30.

Tuesday 13th December: Years 1&2 Nativity in St. James’s Church at 14:00. All parents and carers welcome to attend.

Wednesday 14th December: Key Stage Two Carol Concert in St. James’s Church at 14:00. All parents and carers welcome to attend.

Thursday 15th December: Children at both sites to have Christmas Lunch in year groups and classes.

Thursday 15th December: Booster Cushion Theatre performing a production to Key Stage One children at Old Jamaica Road.

Friday 16th December: End of term Christmas Service in St. James’s Church at 09:30. All welcome to attend.

Friday 16th December: Break up for Christmas Holidays. HALF DAY – 13:15 Old Jamaica Road/13:30 Alexis St. Please note there is no after-school club provision on the final day of term.

Year 1 & 2 Parents & Carers – Nativity Costume Requests

A reminder to please bring in requested costume items for the Nativity as soon as you can.

Please name any items and put in a bag for us to keep in school. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Events and Activities Leading to Christmas

We are re-attaching the flier advertising story-telling and events in the Blue before Christmas for your information. Please also find information on the Winter of Food and Fun Holiday Scheme, along with the registration form should this be of interest to you.

Do keep checking our newsletters and dates letters – as you can see, we have a lot of events and trips etc and it’s good for us all to be aware of when everything is happening. A further amended ‘dates for your diaries’ letter is attached, looking ahead to events and dates next year.

We’re wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James’ team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had another really busy, fun week of learning this week where children's attentions have been centred around their RE learning in the lead up to Christmas. It was super to welcome so many parents and carers into school on Wednesday for our Open Evening where children took you to their classrooms to show you their learning – they've all achieved brilliant things this term and we're very proud of them all. Rehearsals continue to go very well for all our events and performances next week which are outlined below. It's also super today to see so many children looking festive for our Christmas Jumper day! Children are also really enjoying their visits to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book choosing sessions.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has focused on Christmas, where we've thought about the Shepherds, the Angels and Mary's Song – children have thought carefully about the very first Christmas and have amazed us all with their wonderful responses, thinking about the true meaning of this time of year.

Charitable Giving

We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us with some of our favourite causes and charities this term. Your generosity and kindness have helped St. James' raise:

- £600.61 for JDRF, a research charity supporting people with Type 1 Diabetes;
- £179.84 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal;
- £347.77 for Children in Need;
- £298.91 for our local Pecan Food Bank, Southwark;
- £225.79 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

In total, we have collectively raised £1,652.92 for these charities during the Autumn term!

Alexis St Barrier/No Access

Now may be a timely reminder that there is NO ACCESS to Alexis St/Linsey Street for vehicles during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. This also includes driving round before the barrier is in place. Very soon there will be ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and you will receive a ticket and fine for driving through during the No Access times. This is in place for the safety of our children, and until such time Mrs Brenta and our caretaker stand by the barrier to allow access to residents (who will always have access). We know it is cold and sometimes wet, but please, if you have to drive, park away from the school and walk some of the way. Thank you for your consideration for children's safety.

School Uniform Next Week

If your child/ren is/are in Years 1, 2, 3 & 4, please send them in next week in **normal, full uniform all week**. This is due to our performances and concerts as advertised. Reception, Years 5 & 6 can wear PE kits as usual on Thursday. Please also note that children will need to wear full school uniform on Friday for our final Church Service for the term.

Final Day of Term – Friday 16th December

Do remember that next Friday, our final day before the Christmas holidays, we break up at 13:15 (Old Jamaica Road and 13:15 (Alexis St). We always have a half day at the end of the full term. Do remember there will be no after-school club provision on this day.

Christmas Events Next Week

Monday 12th December: Nursery Christmas Morning – parents and carers invited to join their children in the OJR hall from 09:30-11:00.

Monday 12th December: Reception Nativity and Christmas songs in the OJR hall at 14:00. All Reception parents and carers welcome to attend.

Tuesday 13th December: Year 6 trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see 'Pinocchio'. Note a late arrival back to school on this day – 16:30. Please note Year 6 will be late back to school on this day. If you don't want children returning home alone, please e-mail the office to let us know you'll be collecting them.

Tuesday 13th December: Years 1&2 Nativity in St. James's Church at 14:00. All parents and carers welcome to attend.

Wednesday 14th December: Key Stage Two Carol Concert in St. James's Church at 14:00. All parents and carers welcome to attend.

Thursday 15th December: Children at both sites to have Christmas Lunch in year groups and classes.

Thursday 15th December: Booster Cushion Theatre performing a production to Key Stage One children at Old Jamaica Road.

Friday 16th December: End of term Christmas Service in St. James's Church at 09:30. All welcome to attend.

Friday 16th December: Break up for Christmas Holidays. HALF DAY – 13:15 Old Jamaica Road/13:30 Alexis St. **Please note there is no after-school club provision on the final day of term.**

Events and Activities Leading to Christmas

We are re-attaching the flier advertising story-telling and events in the Blue before Christmas for your information. Do note tomorrow's Story Telling event brought to you by [@storying space!](#)

Do keep checking our newsletters and dates letters – as you can see, we have a lot of events and trips etc and it's good for us all to be aware of when everything is happening.

Please find attached our updated school vision and ethos – this has been created this term with input from our staff, governors and the children. We'll explore this in further detail in the new year, encouraging all our children to 'Let your light shine!' A further amended 'dates for your diaries' letter is also attached as usual, looking ahead to events and dates next year.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend ☺

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of a really busy, really successful Autumn term where our children have completed some super learning and had many wonderful enrichment experiences in school! We are so proud of each and every one of them and their unique and wonderful talents. This week has been amazing – all children have performed their Nativities or Carol concerts and have really impressed us all. Do go to Instagram - [@st_jamesschool](https://www.instagram.com/st_jamesschool) – to see some highlights! Very well done to them and thank you to parents, carers and our whole school community for your support and usual kindness.

SchoolsBuddy – OJR Breakfast and After-School Clubs

For those of you who use our Breakfast and After School club provision at Old Jamaica Road, please note that sessions for next term will be bookable from 1st January 2023. Please ensure that you are booking and paying by using the SchoolsBuddy app before your child attends a session. You can also cancel sessions you have booked if you no longer need them, for example if your child is unwell that day. We cannot guarantee places for children that have not been booked in advance.

Online Safety Over the Christmas Holidays

We know that Christmas is a popular time to give toys and devices that can access the internet. We would encourage you to visit our Safeguarding page of the school website for some useful online safety guidance to keep your families' internet use safe over the festive period. Go to:

<https://www.stjamesschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=Online+Safety+%2D+Parents&pid=131&action=saved>

Bankside Holiday Club

Please find an attachment given to us by a parent as a recommendation for a holiday club should you be looking for childcare during the holidays.

Food Bank/Free and Low-Cost Food

Please see attached a leaflet from Southwark Foodbank/Pecan of local places to get free or low-cost food if you are in need over the Christmas break. There is also an attachment giving general details of where to find advice or go to should you need help during the cost of living crisis.

Southwark Early Help Father's Course

Please find attached a flier from Southwark Early Help services regarding a Father's Course starting in January should this be of interest to you.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow the link for this month's newsletter from Family Lives:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-dec22>

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a wonderful, happy and safe Christmas holiday. We'll see you all in the new year on Wednesday 4th January at the usual school times. The dates letter is attached as usual for dates and events in advance for the rest of the school year and will be updates as we make future bookings etc.

God bless and a very merry Christmas to you all,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's been lovely to see everyone and welcome the children back following the Christmas holidays. We've enjoyed hearing all about what you've been doing and are glad to hear lots of lovely time was spent with families and friends. We were welcomed back on Wednesday with a lovely Epiphany service in St. James's Church where Paul and Penny were ably assisted by some volunteers and members of the Junior Faith Committee to think about Christmas coming to a close. Our Collective Worship theme this half term will focus upon our 'Character Trait' and School Vision Bible scriptures as sent to you before the Christmas holidays. Children have come back with really positive attitudes and are happy to return and ready to learn for the Spring term.

Reception 2023 Admissions

For Parents and Carers of Nursery children due to start Reception in September 2023, this is just a reminder to submit your Reception 2023 application if you have not already done so. If you are a Southwark resident, when you submit you will receive a confirmation e-mail and reference number, beginning 210-2023-09-E- followed by your unique number. If you are submitting from a neighbouring borough, it will be similar but with different first 3 digits (as per your home borough). If you need any assistance, please do give Mrs Brenta a call or e-mail her on cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

We're really pleased to have been able to secure Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada are starting their lessons today – apologies for the late notice; we only just had confirmation of the booking during the holidays. The following classes will attend as per below. Do ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 1:** Year 6 Canada;
- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

School Uniform/Shoes

Thank you for ensuring most children are back to school wearing smart uniform and plain black footwear. If this is not the case, please do ensure plain black shoes – these can be plimsolls – are worn next week. Trainers with other colours are not acceptable and our uniform policy does ask for plain black shoes. Many thanks for your co-operation. Our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.stjamesschoolbermondsey.com/uniform>

Events Next Week

A fairly quiet time as we settle back into the new year and get fully immersed into our new topics and class books. Swimming will continue for 6 Canada, Violin lessons for years 3-6, Recorder lessons at KS1 and 6 Canada, 5 India and 2 Spain will all visit the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book borrowing. Please find attached a slightly updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which will be updated with more dates imminently.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend!

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a busy and productive week – children are producing some super work and are really engaged with their learning and new class topics and books. We've resumed our library visits – this week 6 Canada, 5 India and 2 Spain have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book choosing and story-telling. Our violin and recorder lessons continue to go really well – watch this space for concerts of these later on in the school year to showcase all we're learning. 6 Canada are also continuing with their swimming lessons this week too which are going really well!

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on our 'Zest' where we've looked at how important it is to be energetic and positive and how this can help us to achieve. Do ask the children if they can remember the Bible scripture this relates to.

Reception 2023 Admissions

If you have not yet applied for your child's Reception place for this September, the closing date is **11.59pm on Sunday 15th January 2023**.

Link: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

Please ensure you have submitted your application and have a reference number and email confirmation.

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

We're really pleased to have been able to secure Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada have started their lessons – the following classes will attend as per below. Do ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 1:** Year 6 Canada;
- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

Year 3 Trip to the Unicorn Theatre – Wednesday 25th January

We've secured tickets and have booked for Year 3 Sweden and 3 Norway to attend the Unicorn for a production of 'Anansi the Spider' on Wednesday 25th January. This is due to finish around 15:30 so please do note in advance a late finish on this day. Children should be back to Alexis St to be picked up around 16:00. We'll send further reminders of this via text nearer the time.

Cost of Living crisis

For support for Southwark residents please follow this link to see if you are eligible for any assistance:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/cost-of-living-support/southwark-council-cost-of-living-fund-scolf>

Mrs Brenta is also available to chat with and may can help or signpost you to further assistance, if you require it. Call her or email her, in confidence and she will arrange to meet with you.

Southwark Sustainable Travel

As part of the Travel Plan, we have been asked by Southwark Sustainable Travel Officer to ask our parents: *'What do you think about our Sustainable Transport Strategy?'* We are currently consulting on our updated Sustainable Transport Strategy. Our Sustainable Transport Strategy sets out Southwark's approach to improve people's experience of travel to, from and around the borough. People's wellbeing and their experiences of moving are at the heart of the strategy. We are now seeking your input. You will be able to share your views and experiences of, for example, safety, traffic reduction, and cycling. Your participation will help inform our delivery by showing the priorities and values of people who live, work, study and play in the borough. Read the strategy and respond to our 10-minute survey:

<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/STS>

We would like to increase participation amongst young people in Southwark and have created a survey focused on young people's experiences. It takes 4 minutes to fill out and you have the chance to win a £20 voucher. Take the 4-minute youth survey: <https://southwark.typeform.com/youthvoice>

Events Next Week

Swimming will continue for 6 Canada on Friday, Violin lessons for years 3-6, Recorder lessons at KS1 and all of Year 3 and 2 France will all visit the Blue Anchor library. Please find attached again a slightly updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which will be updated with more dates imminently. We're awaiting confirmation of a few bookings for trips etc so do watch out for these as they're confirmed.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had another busy week – children are working really hard and achieving lots of great things with their learning. We've continued with our library visits – this week Year 3 and 2 France have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book choosing and story-telling. Our violin and recorder lessons continue to go really well – do save the dates according to the dates letter attached for recitals later in the academic year. 6 Canada are also continuing with their swimming lessons this week.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on 'Grit' where we've looked at how important it is to be determined and show passion and perseverance in all we do. Have a chat with your child/ren about all we discussed and 'pressing on towards the goal'!

Year 3 Trip to the Unicorn Theatre – Wednesday 25th January

A reminder that Year 3 Sweden and 3 Norway are to attend the Unicorn for a production of 'Anansi the Spider' on Wednesday 25th January. This is due to finish around 15:30 so please do note in advance a late finish on this day. Children should be back to Alexis St to be picked up around 16:00. We'll send further reminders of this via text nearer the time. Belgium children in Year 3 will also attend.

Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

Children in Reception and Year 6 have their annual NHS checks on Thursday. Please find attached all the necessary information on this. These are conducted by school nurses. If for any reason you don't want your child to take part, you'll notice an 'opt-out' part at the end of the letter. Do return this, signed, to the office should you not wish your child/ren to participate.

'Getridofanddonate' (See Attached Flier)

Open House Coffee Mornings for families are running on Mondays. Families can choose good quality clothes, toys books and household items to take away for free. Please show the flier when you arrive - on your phones is fine. Please note, the date on the flier is from last term, but they are definitely running **this term on Mondays, 10:00 to 11:30.**

Free February Half Term Cycle Training for Children in Southwark

Southwark Council are providing free cycle training courses to all children who live in, or go to school in the borough during the February half term holidays, please see the attached flier for more information. Locations are Dulwich Park or Burgess Park. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow at Burgess Park but not at Dulwich Park. Children must be able to attend training for every session. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website:

<http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Cycle Confident Sessions in School

We will also be running some in-school cycle training after half term; Level 1 is available for Y3 & 4 children and Level 2 for Y 5 & 6 children (places are limited). Mrs. Brenta will be sending details soon, do look out for them as places will be allocated to the first 30 children to complete the consent forms. Children DO NOT need to have a bike to take part in this, as we can request bikes for the duration of the course.

New School Menus – Both Sites

Please be aware our menus have changed at both sites. Do have a look in case you like to see what children are eating/plan in advance. The menus can be accessed on our website:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/schooldinners>

SchoolsBuddy Booking System – OJR Breakfast and After-School Club

Can we respectfully remind parents who use Breakfast & After School Club at OJR that they need to book and pay for sessions in advance of children attending. We have a legal obligation to provide the correct child:adult ratio at sessions and this cannot be achieved if we don't know how many children are due to attend. Children not booked in may be turned away if we cannot safely supervise due to excess numbers. Equally, we have - up until now - refunded parents for sessions which have been booked by them but then not attended by their children. The SchoolsBuddy app shows where parents can go back on and cancel sessions, at which point money for the session unused will be credited to their account for use on a future booking.

SchoolsBuddy offers flexibility for parents to book or cancel sessions through the app or through the browser online at any time of the day or night. Sessions can be booked or cancelled up to the minute they start. The system was introduced by school to enable parents to be in charge of their own bookings. We do not intend to continue manually booking and charging sessions required nor crediting sessions not required on behalf of parents, due to the additional work this involves our administrative staff. If you have any issues accessing SchoolsBuddy, please email office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk and we will be happy to ensure that you have the functionality required to manage your SchoolsBuddy account and bookings. Thank you.

Internet Safety/Social Media Monitoring

Please find attached a letter regarding social media which I urge you to read should your child/ren have any accounts online. Sadly, unpleasant things happen online and parents and carers must be really vigilant to this to avoid anything happening to their child online.

ESOL – English as a Second or Other Language Course

As per Mrs Brenta's text earlier this week, ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) course for all parents/carers will start on Tuesday 31st January, 1-3pm at OJR. If you are interested, please call or email Mrs Brenta or e-mail her on: cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

Another reminder of Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada have started their lessons – the following classes will attend as per below. Do ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 1:** Year 6 Canada;
- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

Lost Property

We have a growing amount of lost property at either site – most of it unnamed! Do take this opportunity to ensure your child's items are named so we can return when they are found.

Family Lives January Newsletter

Please follow this link for the latest newsletter from Family Lives:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-jan23?e=10e6384bfc>

Events Next Week

Year 3 will attend the Unicorn Theatre for a production 'Anansi the Spider' on Wednesday (info as above – remember the late collection!), Reception and Year 6 have their NHS Height and Weight checks on Thursday, Swimming will continue for 6 Canada on Friday, Violin lessons for years 3-6, Recorder lessons at KS1 and all of Year 4 and 1 Germany will all visit the Blue Anchor library.

Please find attached again a further updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which will be updated with more dates imminently. We're still awaiting confirmation of a few bookings for trips etc so do watch out for these as they're confirmed. As above, see the dates for concerts and performances and put these in your diaries well in advance!

Please also have a look at further attachments, most of which relate to different sections above.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy week – children have been producing some particularly beautiful art work this week in preparation for our Art Showcase evening on Wednesday 8th February at both sites which you'll all be invited to attend (please see the 'dates' letter). We've continued with our library visits – this week Year 4 and 1 Germany have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book choosing and story-telling. Our violin and recorder lessons continue to go very well – do save the dates according to the dates letter attached for recitals later in the academic year. 6 Canada are also continuing with their swimming lessons this week. Year 3 had a lovely trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see a Press Performance of 'Anansi the Spider' which seemed to be very well received by all! We're sorry the children were later back to school than anticipated; the show finished later than expected and buses were very full. We're so glad they got to see another great show at the Unicorn though, lucky them!

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on 'Optimism'. We've looked at how important it is to be confident in a future of positive possibilities and how this can help us achieve and grow. As always, do ask your child/ren about all we discussed and consider how we can have 'glass half full' attitudes!

Mrs Willis's Retirement

You may or may not know that Mrs Willis has unfortunately been on long-term sick leave since mid-September. I can assure you that she is doing very well, and is in contact still, however sadly hasn't been fit for work for some time. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing her well for a recovery before too long. Our Chair of Governors, Canon Gary Jenkins, has asked me to pass on the following words to you all regarding her imminent retirement:

"Dear Parents,

Our headteacher, Mrs Willis, has informed us that she has decided to retire with effect from 30th April 2023. All of us at St James' School owe a huge debt of gratitude for her service to the school community for these past eighteen years. The governors will soon begin the process of selecting the new headteacher and we shall be in touch again when we have some more news to share.

Canon Gary Jenkins, Chair of Governors."

NEU Strike Action

Many people have been asking whether or not the industrial action by the NEU will affect us as a school. I'm happy to say that no member of the NEU in our setting has informed us they are taking industrial action on Wednesday 1st February, meaning **school will be open as usual**. Should this change for next Wednesday, or any of the other planned strike days, we will let you know as soon as possible. Should members strike, we anticipate being able to cover their absence as we usually would a class teachers' illness.

School Streets – Alexis St

We are very pleased that, after many months of consultation and campaigning, we will soon have the ANPR camera installed at Alexis St, meaning Mrs Brenta will no longer have to stand by the barriers that restrict access to vehicles during drop off and pick up times at KS2. During this lengthy period, it has made the road and pavement behind the playground so very much safer, although we are aware there is still the possibility of some vehicles on the road - usually deliveries or residents. We would like to thank the school community for their consideration over the past couple of years while we have had the barrier. Those of you who do drive should be very used to not coming through the barrier zone. I know Mrs Brenta has been telling you about the ANPR and the possible fine you may get.

The temporary barriers will be in place for a little while longer, although we have been informed by Southwark Council that the ANPR camera will go 'live' very soon. There will be restricted timings, during drop off and collection, the same as we have had with the barrier, where any vehicle going into the area (beyond the current barrier) will be issued a 'Fixed Penalty Notice' with a fine. For further information please follow the link to Southwark council School Streets: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/parking/school-street-access-permit> Residents will be issued permits (they will need to apply, but will be informed by Southwark on process).

Free February Half Term Cycle Training for Children in Southwark

Southwark Council are providing free cycle training courses to all children who live in, or go to school in the borough during the February half term holidays, please see the attached flier for more information. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website: <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Cycle Confident Sessions in School

Another reminder that we will also be running some in-school cycle training after half term; Level 1 is available for Y3 & 4 children and Level 2 for Y 5 & 6 children (places are limited). Mrs. Brenta will be sending details soon, do look out for them as places will be allocated to the first 30 children to complete the consent forms. Children DO NOT need to have a bike to take part in this, as we can request bikes for the duration of the course.

Packed Lunches

We are becoming concerned about some contents in children's packed lunch boxes, please see the attached flier from HEP with the guidelines as to what should and should not be included - we ask you follow these guidelines due to health and safety reasons. As you know, Southwark give every primary school child a free healthy school lunch during term time, and we have delicious, freshly cooked lunches at both sites. Menus are available on our web site, and your children can always see in advance what is for lunch. We would encourage all children to at least try our school lunches, and of course it is saving you both time and money if they have a school lunch. We are advised by our external school catering experts, HEP (Health Education Partnership) and follow government guidance on School Food Standards. If you have any questions or would like further advice do get in touch with us.

Fit for Sport

For Key Stage Two parents and carers, please be mindful of the fact that From Monday 20th February (after half term) – your 'Fit For Sport' breakfast or after school club will be

rebranded to JAG (Junior Adventures Group). You should have received information on this via e-mail. If you haven't, please do check and keep checking your spam/junk e-mail as there is a link to follow with permissions to transfer your information to the new company to continue to have your child registered for the service. I had a really good meeting with the regional manager last week about new developments moving forward to keep improving the service, both for wraparound care and lunchtime provision. Do get used to us referring to these provisions as 'JAG' rather than 'Fit For Sport' in the near future. There is information attached and you can also visit this link to find out more and ensure you're ready for the change following February half term:

<https://www.fitforsport.co.uk/about-us/blogs/category/junior-adventures-group-rebrand-2023>

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

Another reminder of Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada have started their lessons – the following classes will attend as per below. Do ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

Events Next Week

Swimming will continue for 6 Canada on Friday, Violin lessons for years 3-6, Recorder lessons at KS1 and 5 Japan, 6 Brazil and 1 Italy will all visit the Blue Anchor library. Year 6 children participating in the Scholar's Programme will continue with their tutorials in school too.

Dates for your Diaries – Events in Advance

As usual, please find attached again a further updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which has been updated with lots more events including parents' and open evenings, Sports Day and meetings for specific year groups/groups of parents too. Do save the dates for concerts, services and performances and put these in your diaries well in advance!

Please find another attachment re holiday clubs for February half term locally; we'll keep on looking for these and share when we have them. Time is flying by and it'll be half term before we know it!

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless,
from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

A really good, focused week has been had by all at St. James' – I'm so glad, unlike most other schools it would seem, that we've managed to have an uninterrupted week and remained open every day. We've continued with our class books and topics and with our library visits – this week Year 5 Japan, Year 6 Brazil and Year 1 Italy have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book choosing and story-telling. Our violin and recorder lessons continue to go very well and Year 6 Canada are also continuing with their swimming lessons this week.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on 'Self-Control'. We've looked at how important it is to be demonstrate self-control at all times for the benefit of ourselves and others around us. Happily, this is something the children are excelling with in school at the moment and we're very proud of all of them for this!

School Clubs

We're really pleased to be able to offer a few clubs at either site after half term as below. These will run **each Monday, from 27th February**. These will be until 16:15 at Old Jamaica Road for Years 1&2 and until 16:30 at Alexis St for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Further details will come once your child has secured a place in one of our clubs. Do ask your child if they would like to attend and think about whether you'd like to book children onto these. Booking on to clubs will be through our SchoolsBuddy system on a first come, first served basis – please note, this will be the only way children will be able to be booked on to a club due to needing a register in place. We'll send information about the club once you've booked your child on. Do note, this will be the same principle as our Autumn term parents' evening slots for booking and you will be able to book from Monday 6th February. The clubs we're offering for now are:

- Year 1&2 Choir & Music;
- Year 1&2 Lego & Build;
- Year 1&2 Art & Design;
- Key Stage Two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics);
- Key Stage Two French & European History;
- Key Stage Two Chess.

Royal Festival Hall Trip – Wednesday 8th February

We're really excited to be taking Reception and Key Stage One children to the Royal Festival Hall next Wednesday to see a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra based around 'The Colour Monster'. Children will go during school hours so this does not affect drop-offs/collections. They will be travelling by bus and by foot. Unfortunately, we are unable to have parents and carers join us for this trip as it's a ticketed event and we were only able to buy enough tickets to ensure we have the correct adult ratio. We hope however that the children will have a super time and be able to tell you all about the concert when you collect them from school on Wednesday!

Art Showcase Evening – Wednesday 8th February

Parents and carers are all welcome to attend our Art Showcase evening next Wednesday after school at either site to see some of their children's artwork from this term. As with our Open Evenings, collect your child/ren as usual and they will bring you into school to show you their work. At Old Jamaica Road this will be in the main hall, at Alexis St children will lead you to their classrooms to see their work. We look forward to seeing you then! This will be until 5pm as class teachers will need time to pack away etc after the evening.

Free School Meals Vouchers for February Half Term

This half term, the way families who are eligible for meal vouchers receive them will change. We have only just this week been informed of this by Southwark Council and this will mean quite a lot of extra admin work for us. We will now be required to distribute POP (Post Office Pay-out) vouchers to eligible families the day before the start of the holiday to cover the period away from school. These vouchers will be delivered to school next week for us to sort addressed to you - 'Dear parent/carer of *pupil's name*'. Then:

- You will need to take your POP voucher to any Post Office branch within 1 month of the date of the letter to get your payment;
- The POP voucher will provide you with additional information on how to redeem the voucher;
- Each voucher will have a face value of £15 – This equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day for the 5 days of the February half-term.

We're hoping for this to be a really straight-forward process for you once we've sorted all the vouchers upon arrival. Your child/ren will be coming home with these in an envelope next Friday – 10th February. Do look out for these and follow the instructions therein.

Free February Half Term Cycle Training for Children in Southwark

Southwark Council are providing free cycle training courses to all children who live in, or go to school in the borough during the February half term holidays, please see the attached flier for more information. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website: <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Fit for Sport

Another reminder for Key Stage Two parents and carers - please be mindful of the fact that From Monday 20th February (after half term) – your 'Fit For Sport' breakfast or after school club will be rebranded to JAG (Junior Adventures Group). You should have received information on this via e-mail. If you haven't, please do check and keep checking your spam/junk e-mail as there is a link to follow with permissions to transfer your information to the new company to continue to have your child registered for the service. Do get used to us referring to these provisions as 'JAG' rather than 'Fit For Sport' in the near future. There is information attached again regarding this.

Personal Items in School

A timely reminder that we do not accept any personal items in school and that if items are brought in, they are not our responsibility. Children never need to bring their own stationery items as we provide all they should need and sadly these items being brought in can cause unnecessary problems for class teachers.

Holiday Club Ideas

Please find another attachment re holiday clubs for February half term locally; we'll keep on looking for these and share when we have them.

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

Another reminder of Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada will have their final session next Friday, 5 India will start after half term. Please ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

Events Next Week

Swimming will continue for 6 Canada; their final session will be next Friday. Violin lessons will continue for years 3-6, Recorder lessons at KS1 and Belgium class will be visiting the library on Monday. Belgium class are also attending London Zoo on Tuesday as part of their topic work. As above, all children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are visiting the Royal Festival Hall for a BrightSparks concert next Wednesday. Remember to pop along after school on Wednesday too for our Art Showcase evening until 5pm. Our Year 6 Scholars will also attend their graduation ceremony next Friday – do be aware of a late arrival back to school on this day. We'll send out separate information next week.

Dates for your Diaries – Events in Advance

As usual, please find attached again a further updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which has been updated with lots more events including parents' and open evenings, Sports Day and meetings for specific year groups/groups of parents too. Do save the dates for concerts, services and performances and put these in your diaries well in advance!

Do remember we break up for half term next week – Friday 10th February – at the normal school times of 15:15 (OJR) and 15:30 (Alexis St).

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of a really productive and busy Spring term 1! I am so incredibly impressed with all our children's achievements and their continuous development in our school and this final week of term has highlighted some incredible work – notably during Wednesday's well-attended Art showcase evening! Do have a look over our [@st_jamesschool](#) Instagram grid in case you've missed anything in particular being celebrated! Belgium class attended the library and went on a super trip to London Zoo on Tuesday and Reception, Years 1 & 2 all attended a wonderful concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday. Children have continued working really hard in their Violin and Recorder lessons and 6 Canada have their final swimming session today.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on 'Gratitude'. We've looked at how important it is to be thankful and appreciative of all we have and all that others do for us. As always, we've had some really beautiful responses from the children regarding kindness and generosity of spirit as always.

Free School Meals Vouchers for February Half Term

As you'll already be aware, this half term the way families who are eligible for meal vouchers receive them will change; we were only recently informed of this by Southwark Council. We will now be required to distribute POP (Post Office Pay-out) vouchers to eligible families the day before the start of the holiday to cover the period away from school. These vouchers will be addressed to you - 'Dear parent/carer of *pupil's name*'. Then:

- Take your POP voucher to any Post Office branch within 1 month of the date of the letter to get your payment;
- The POP voucher will provide additional information on how to redeem the voucher;
- Each voucher will have a face value of £15 – this equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day for the 5 days of the February half-term.

We're hoping for this to be a really straight-forward process. Your child/ren will be coming home with these in an envelope today. Do look out for these and follow the instructions therein.

Alexis St. Road Safety

As we have mentioned a number of times before the temporary barrier will be in place for a little while longer, while you get used to the camera. The ANPR camera has been installed and the signs will be replaced very soon. If you drive through this area at the restricted times, you will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice, (local residents will always have access). We do hope you will take notice of the cameras, the area where the children come to and from school is so much safer since the installation of the temporary barrier, and both adults and children alike have given positive feedback. Thank you to Mrs. Brenta for working so hard on this initiative, making our School Street a much safer place!

School Clubs

Another reminder that these will run **each Monday, from 27th February**. These will be until 16:15 at Old Jamaica Road (Years 1&2) and until 16:30 at Alexis St (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6). Further details will come once your child has secured a place in a club. Booking on to clubs is through our SchoolsBuddy system on a first come, first served basis – please note, this is the only way children will be able to be booked on to a club due to needing a register in place. Booking is still live and we do have some spaces on each. Clubs we're offering:

- Year 1&2 Choir & Music;
- Year 1&2 Lego & Build;
- Year 1&2 Art & Design;
- Key Stage Two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics);
- Key Stage Two French & European History;
- Key Stage Two Chess.

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting the notes will be available on the web site after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

Activities and Half Term Suggestions

London Zoo - thank you to the parent who alerted us to a fantastic deal at London Zoo! London Zoo is offering £3.00 tickets for anyone currently receiving Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance. The £3.00 tickets are available for the whole family and under 3s go free. Tickets can be purchased from the admissions kiosk on the day, from 11am, every day of the week. Just bring proof of benefit letter (electronic or paper).

Southbank Imagine Children's Festival - events (most are free) for all ages are taking place on the Southbank over half term, follow this link for further information:

<https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/imagine-childrens-festival>

Asda - Kids Eat for £1.00 - Asda have extended their winter offer in their cafes, follow this link for further information:

<https://corporate.asda.com/newsroom/2023/01/04/asda-extends-1-cafe-deals-for-kids-and-over-60s-as-inflation-pressures-continue-to-bite>

PE Kits/Uniform

Jogging bottoms in all sizes are back in stock online. Now might also be a good time to order PE shorts and T shirts ready for the warmer weather, ensuring all have PE uniform for Sports Day as advertised! Please could we also remind you that children should be coming to school dressed in PE uniform, and if not available, plain PE clothes - no logos.

Fit for Sport

Another reminder for Key Stage Two parents and carers - please be mindful of the fact that From Monday 20th February (after half term) – your 'Fit For Sport' breakfast or after school club will be rebranded to JAG (Junior Adventures Group). You should have received

information on this via e-mail. If you haven't, please do check and keep checking your spam/junk e-mail as there is a link to follow with permissions to transfer your information to the new company to continue to have your child registered for the service. Do get used to us referring to these provisions as 'JAG' rather than 'Fit For Sport' in the near future. There is information attached again regarding this.

Year 5 & 6 Swimming – Spring and Summer Terms

Another reminder of Swimming lessons for all our Year 5 and 6 children from now until the end of the Summer term. 6 Canada will have their final session next Friday, 5 India will start after half term. Please ensure swimming costumes etc are ready for the following terms. Reminders will be sent nearer the time.

- **Spring 2:** Year 5 India;
- **Summer 1:** Year 5 Japan;
- **Summer 2:** Year 6 Brazil.

Dates for your Diaries – Events in Advance

As usual, please find attached again a further updated 'dates for your diaries' letter which has been updated with lots more events including parents' and open evenings, Sports Day and meetings for specific year groups/groups of parents too. Do save the dates for concerts, services and performances and put these in your diaries well in advance!

Holiday Club Ideas

Please find two attachments re cycle training/holiday clubs for February half term locally; we'll keep on looking for these and share when we have them. There is also a flier advertising Saturday Football Coaching sessions at Harris Academy Bermondsey.

Do remember we break up for half term TODAY – Friday 10th February – at the normal school times of 15:15 (OJR) and 15:30 (Alexis St).

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely, happy and safe half term break!

We're really looking forward to seeing the children back, refreshed, and ready to learn on Monday 20th February at the normal school times.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's been lovely to be back to school following our Spring half term, seeing the children come back very ready to learn, and hearing all the lovely things they've done with their holidays. We've really 'hit the ground running' and started new class books and topics with gusto! This week Reception children have had their balance bike training and our Year 6 Scholar's Programme participants are attending their graduation event this afternoon. 5 India begin their swimming lessons today and violin and recorder lessons continue to go really well.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on the beginning of Lent, where we've learnt about the importance of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Next week, we'll continue with our character trait theme and focus on the importance of Social Intelligence.

Alexis St. Modal Filter Consultation

The consultation is underway regarding the planned works to restrict traffic around our Alexis St site. Please find an attachment outlining details of this and follow the QR code to have your say on the proposed plans.

School Clubs

We're excited for children to be starting their new clubs next week. These will run **each Monday, from 27th February**. These will be until 16:15 at Old Jamaica Road (Years R, 1&2) and until 16:30 at Alexis St (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6). If your child/ren are signed up, you will have received an e-mail regarding these. Please collect children from the usual playground gate (Alexis St) or Reception/Year 2 gate (OJR) at the times above. Clubs with a few spaces still:

- Year 1&2 Choir & Music;
- Year 1&2 Lego & Build;
- Year 1&2 Art & Design;
- Key Stage Two French & European History.

World Book Day

We're excited to be marking World Book Day next Friday – 3rd March – at both sites. During this day, children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character as always and we have exciting activities planned. The author and illustrator Pat Ryan will be visiting to deliver story-telling sessions with Years 1-6 and Year 4 are even having an extra story-telling session with Ivana from [@storying_space](#).

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting the notes will be available on the web site after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

English and Maths Mornings

Following a successful Maths learning morning for parents and carers, we are holding an English morning and another Maths morning. Ms Boyd (our English Teaching & Learning Lead) and Mr. Brooksbank (our Mathematics Teaching & Learning Lead) are warmly inviting parents and carers into school at both sites on **Wednesday 8th March (English)** and **Wednesday 15th March (Maths)** to talk about how we teach these subjects at St. James' and to enable you to see some teaching and learning in progress. Do put this date in your diaries and join them then at the following times on each morning:

- **KS1(Years 1&2) at Old Jamaica Road:** Ms Boyd/Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in OJR hall at 09:30, visit classrooms around 09:50 and be finished by 10:15;
- **KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) at Alexis St:** Ms Boyd/Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in our Ground Floor hub at 11:00, visit classrooms at 11:15, finished by 11:45.

Do note the structure of the morning is the same on both days however do attend according to the subject you'd like to see as above. We'd be more than happy to invite you in on both days of course!

STEM Week – Poster Competition

Miss Rozier has the following message and I've included her attachment ahead of our STEM week, commencing Monday 13th March:

"St James' is proud to announce our STEM week poster competition across both KS1 and KS2. We wish that everyone could be a winner, but we only have a limited number of prizes. So, here's the lowdown on what the judges will be looking for:

- *Creativity in approach – Innovative angle on the content or creative interpretation of the theme;*
- *Content – Clear, accurate and informative about a STEM topic;*
- *Effective communication – presented and communicated in an engaging way.*

Winners will also be submitted to the British Science Association to represent our school in a chance to win even more exciting prizes!"

Dates for your Diaries – Events in Advance

Please find the 'dates' list attached as usual. Next week, Nursery will be doing their balance bike training, Year 3 Cycle confident will commence, Year 1 will visit the Science Museum on Monday, Years 5&6 will have their School Nurse growing and changing talks on Thursday and swimming and music lessons will continue. As mentioned, lots of super activities on Friday to celebrate World Book Day too!

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

A busy and productive week! This week some Nursery children have had their balance bike training and our Year 3 children had their Cycle Confident sessions. 5 India continue with their swimming lessons today and violin and recorder lessons continue to go really well. Year 1 had a super trip to the Science Museum on Monday – many thanks to parents and carers for joining us for that, and Years 5 & 6 were very sensible and responsive to their growing up and changing talks with the school nursing team yesterday. It's really super to be celebrating World Book Day today and seeing all the children's imaginative costumes! The author and illustrator Pat Ryan is visiting to deliver story-telling sessions with Years 1-6 and Year 4 are even having an extra story-telling session with Ivana from [@storying_space](#) this afternoon.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on the importance of Social Intelligence. Next week we'll conclude with our assemblies based around our school values and character traits, discussing the importance of curiosity.

School Clubs

Clubs started really well this week! A reminder that these run until 16:15 at OJR (Years R, 1&2) and until 16:30 at Alexis St (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6). Please collect children from the usual playground gate (Alexis St) or Rec/Year 2 gate (OJR) at the times above. Clubs with a few spaces still:

- Year 1&2 Choir & Music;
- Key Stage Two French & European History.

English and Maths Mornings

We are holding an English morning and another Maths morning. Ms Boyd (our English Teaching & Learning Lead) and Mr. Brooksbank (our Mathematics Teaching & Learning Lead) are warmly inviting parents and carers into school at both sites on **Wednesday 8th March (English) and Wednesday 15th March (Maths)** to talk about how we teach these subjects at St. James' and to enable you to see some teaching and learning in progress. Do put this date in your diaries and join them then at the following times on each morning:

- **KS1(Years 1&2) at Old Jamaica Road:** Ms Boyd/Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in OJR hall at 09:30, visit classrooms around 09:50 and be finished by 10:15;
- **KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) at Alexis St:** Ms Boyd/Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in our Ground Floor hub at 11:00, visit classrooms at 11:15, finished by 11:45.

Do note the structure of the morning is the same on both days however do attend according to the subject you'd like to see as above. We'd be more than happy to invite you in on both days of course!

Year 6 Secondary School Allocation

Most of our Year 6 children received their first-choice secondary school, which is excellent. If your child did not get one of their choices and you need further advice, please do see Mrs Brenta. We know some of you applied after the deadline and you may not have confirmation of a school until April. If you applied for a state school and have subsequently been offered a place at an independent school, please ensure you notify Southwark Admissions of your decision so your offer can be withdrawn and offered to someone on the waiting list for the state school.

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting the notes will be available on the web site after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

STEM Week – Poster Competition

Another reminder that Miss Rozier has the following message and I've included her attachment ahead of our STEM week, commencing Monday 13th March:

"St James' is proud to announce our STEM week poster competition across both KS1 and KS2. Here's what the judges will be looking for:

- *Creativity in approach – Innovative angle on the content or creative interpretation of the theme;*
- *Content – Clear, accurate and informative about a STEM topic;*
- *Effective communication – presented and communicated in an engaging way.*

Winners will also be submitted to the British Science Association to represent our school in a chance to win even more exciting prizes!"

Free Easter Holiday Cycle Training in Southwark (see attached flyer)

Southwark Council is providing free cycle training courses to all children who live or go to school in the borough during the Easter holidays. Locations are Dulwich Park or Burgess Park. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow at Burgess Park but not at Dulwich Park. Children must be able to attend training for every session. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Dates for your Diaries – Next Week

Do have a look at the updated list as usual! Next week...

- Year 1 have balance bike training in school all week;
- Year 2 are attending a Great Fire of London trip on Monday – see separate e-mail;
- Years 3, 4 and Belgium class have a special assembly on Wednesday by people from the Felix Project (London charity fighting hunger and food waste);
- Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) music sessions run as usual;
- 5 India swimming on Friday.

STEM week and Red Nose Day non-uniform coming up - week commencing Monday 13th March!

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 10th March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Despite such inclement weather – and far too many wet break times(!) – we’ve had a busy and successful week in school. Children have been impressing us with their Science knowledge and understanding this week and have been really immersed into their learning. Year 2 attended a super ‘Great Fire of London’ trip on Monday which was very much enjoyed by all; Year 5 India continue with their swimming lessons; Year 1 children have had their balance bike training and recorder and violin lessons continue to go really well too.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on the importance of Curiosity and being eager and enthusiastic to learn and explore new topics and skills. Next week we’ll begin to focus more upon the events in the Easter story, leading to Jesus’s crucifixion as we approach Easter.

English and Maths Mornings

Thanks to Ms Boyd and to parents who attended our English morning this week – we hope you enjoyed seeing some learning in situ! Mr. Brooksbank (our Mathematics Teaching & Learning Lead) is now warmly inviting parents and carers into school at both sites on **Wednesday 15th March** to talk about how we teach Maths at St. James’ and to enable you to see some teaching and learning in progress. Do put this date in your diaries and join him then at the following these times:

- **KS1(Years 1&2) at Old Jamaica Road:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in OJR hall at 09:30, visit classrooms around 09:50 and be finished by 10:15;
- **KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) at Alexis St:** Mr. Brooksbank will meet parents in our Ground Floor hub at 11:00, visit classrooms at 11:15, finished by 11:45.

Red Nose/Comic Relief Non-uniform Day – Friday 17th March 2023

Don’t forget that next Friday (17th March) will mark Red Nose Day. For this we’ll have a non-uniform day in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 for this worthy cause. Children can of course wear as much red/red-nose day themed outfits as they like. We thank you in advance for able to join us in supporting this charity.

Umbrellas/Personal Items in School

Recently – and understandably due to the weather – lots of children have walked to school with umbrellas. Please do ensure children do not enter the playgrounds with open umbrellas. This is for health and safety reasons as umbrellas spokes are at the right height to catch other children’s eyes in the playground or in lines and we would not want any unnecessary injuries. Children can keep a closed umbrella on their hooks if necessary. A timely reminder also to ensure children do not bring personal items in to school which could get lost or cause arguments. We cannot be responsible for any items children might bring in. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Absences/Lates

If your child is going to be absent, please report this as soon as possible to the office. You can do this by calling 020 7237 3111 and speaking to a member of our admin team, or press option 3, which is the absence line and report the absence there. Alternatively, you can download the free app, Studybugs, and report illness/absence via the app: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>
Or reply to the text sent out from school and we will see your response.

If we have not heard from you, we will call and/or text as soon as the registers are closed by the teacher. It is important you let us know as soon as possible why your child is not in school.

Year 6 Secondary School Uniform Grant

Southwark offer a small grant towards uniform for secondary school for children going into Year 7 in September. They are no longer accepting paper applications, you need to click on this link, to see if you are eligible, and then to apply: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/information-for-parents/financial-support/clothing-grants>

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting the notes will be available on the web site after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

STEM Week – Poster Competition

Another reminder that Miss Rozier has the following message and I've included her attachment ahead of our STEM week, commencing Monday 13th March: *"St James' is proud to announce our STEM week poster competition across both KS1 and KS2. The judges will be looking for: Creativity in approach – Innovative angle on the content or creative interpretation of the theme; Content – Clear, accurate and informative about a STEM topic; Effective communication – presented and communicated in an engaging way. Winners will also be submitted to the British Science Association to represent our school in a chance to win even more exciting prizes!"*

Free Easter Holiday Cycle Training in Southwark

Southwark Council is providing free cycle training courses to all children who live or go to school in the borough during the Easter holidays. Locations are Dulwich Park or Burgess Park. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow at Burgess Park but not at Dulwich Park. Children must be able to attend training for every session. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Southwark Food and Fun programme - Easter 2023

The programme will deliver free activities and healthy food for school aged children and young people aged 4 to 16 years old and eligible for and in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) during the Easter, summer and winter school holidays. Follow this link for further info:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/healthy-eating?chapter=8>

Dates for your Diaries – Next Week

Do have a look at the updated list as usual! Next week...

- Monday - Year 3 attending the British Museum for a Roman workshop;
- Tuesday - Year 6 attending the British Museum for a Benin Kingdom workshop;
- STEM learning all week linked to design technology;
- Violin (KS2) and Recorder (KS1) music sessions run as usual;
- 5 India swimming on Friday;
- RED NOSE DAY on Friday – non-uniform in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super (hopefully dry!) weekend.

God bless,
from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 17th March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

A fairly brief newsletter this week following another busy, buzzing week in school. Children have been impressing us with their Design & Technology and STEM knowledge and understanding this week and have been really immersed into their learning – many thanks to Miss Rozier for delivering some really engaging Science assemblies at both sites. Years 3 & 6 all attended the British Museum this week to see exhibitions and hear talks on their topics of the Romans and the Kingdom of Benin respectively and were all super ambassadors for the school; Mr. Brooksbank welcomed parents in to school on Wednesday for another great Maths morning – many thanks to him and Ms Boyd for running these; Year 5 India continue with their swimming lessons; and recorder and violin lessons continue to go really well too. Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on the Easter story, leading to Jesus's crucifixion as we approach Easter. This week we learnt about Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Next week we'll focus on what other events happened during Holy Week.

Red Nose/Comic Relief Non-uniform Day

It's super to see everyone in non-uniform today to support the wonderful work of the Comic Relief charity and the terrific work they do. Thank you so much as always for your generosity and support. We'll let you know how much we've managed to raise in due course.

Assessment Week

Next week will be assessment week across both sites where we'll ascertain where children are with their learning and see what we need to plan for and teach imminently. As always, we simply ask that children try their very best and show off all they've learnt! Do encourage them to do so too. We always carry out assessments in really calm, happy environments so there should be nothing daunting about this. Many thanks for your continued support.

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting, the notes will be available on the web site after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

Free Easter Holiday Cycle Training in Southwark

Southwark Council is providing free cycle training courses to all children who live or go to school in the borough during the Easter holidays. Locations are Dulwich Park or Burgess Park. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow at Burgess Park but not at Dulwich Park. Children must be able to attend training for every session. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Southwark Food and Fun programme - Easter 2023

The programme will deliver free activities and healthy food for school aged children and young people aged 4 to 16 years old and eligible for and in receipt of benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) during the Easter, summer and winter school holidays. Follow this link for further info:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/healthy-eating?chapter=8>

Please follow the link to the most recent 'Family Lives' newsletter should this be of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-mar23?e=10e6384bfc>

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a lovely weekend. A very Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing mums in our school community too.

God bless,
from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 24th march 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy and successful week of learning at St. James'! I'm so pleased to say that all children tried so very hard with their assessments and showed us the best they can do! Class teachers will use this information to plan accordingly for the Summer term and more information on your child(ren)'s performance will come in our Parents' Evenings at the beginning of Summer term 1 as per the 'dates' letter. Year 5 India continue with their swimming lessons and recorder and violin lessons continue to go really well. Years 1&2 have also been working really hard in their rehearsals for their production next week – I'm very much looking forward to seeing them perform 'Jack & the Beanstalk'!

Our Collective Worship theme this week has continued to focus on the Easter story, leading to Jesus's crucifixion. This week we learnt about Jesus in the Temple and we'll continue with this theme of Holy Week next week for our final week of term. Next week all children will focus on their RE learning too.

Red Nose/Comic Relief Non-uniform Day

We managed to collectively raise £265.33 last Friday for Comic Relief – many thanks to you all for your kindness and generosity for this deserving cause.

Nursery Easter Craft Morning

As per Miss Jeanette's separate newsletter, we're delighted to welcome Nursery parents and carers into school at OJR on Monday (27th March) from 09:30-11:00 to make some Easter crafts in the hall with your child/ren. We're looking forward to seeing lots of you there!

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting – Tuesday 28th March – 14:00

There will be a meeting for Year 5 parents and carers at Alexis St, 2pm on Tuesday 28th March, to discuss the secondary school application process. If you are unable to make this meeting, the notes will be available on the website after this and Mrs Brenta will be available to chat if you need any assistance. She will have appointments available in September should you need help with the application process.

Year 5 Royal Festival Hall Trip – Wednesday 29th March

Year 5 are all attending the Royal Festival Hall next Wednesday for a concert. They will be setting off after they've eaten their lunch and will be back in time for 15:30. Teachers will keep in touch and we'll text should they be running late back on the day.

Year 1&2 Production – 'Jack & the Beanstalk' – Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March – 14:00

I'm so excited to see Years 1&2 perform in their production next week and I'm sure you are too! The children are particularly impressing us in their rehearsals. Do come to OJR ready for a 14:00 start on Wednesday and Thursday next week to see your child/ren perform in this. Many thanks to those of you for helping children learn their lines!

FSM Food Vouchers – Easter Holidays

After the pilot scheme in February half term, Southwark have informed us that this scheme will continue in the same way – you will receive POP vouchers (if eligible) to redeem in a Post Office. The only difference this time is that we will not be sending vouchers home with the children, instead they will be e-mailed directly to you or delivered to your postal addresses (this hasn't been confirmed, so do look out for both!). This means that if there are any issues, you will need to contact Southwark directly with the details provided on your vouchers. Each voucher will have a face value of £30 – this equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day, for the 10 days of the Easter holiday. You should receive these on or by Friday 31st March.

Year 6 PGL School Journey Payments

For Year 6 Parents & Carers of children attending the PGL trip in June 2023 - if you would like to request a balance of payments, please email office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk with your child's name and PGL in the subject line, and a balance will be sent in response.

Lates

Unfortunately, children arriving late for school has increased over the past few weeks. Please be reminded of our start times: KS2 (Alexis St) - gates open at 08:50 and the day begins at 08:55. KS1 (OJR) gates open at 09:10 ready for a 09:15 start. Children arriving after the registers have closed (09:30 at KS2 and 09:45 at KS1) will be marked with an unauthorised absence (unless they have attended an appointment). When children are late it is disruptive for the whole class, and can sometimes be upsetting for the child who is late. Often the teacher has delivered instructions for the day and lessons have begun. We know sometimes this cannot be avoided; in these rare instances, do call ahead to let us know we can mark the register accordingly.

Driving/Parking at Old Jamaica Road

We are very proud of holding a sustainable travel award, and would like to remain on GOLD. Sadly, there is an increasing number of cars parking near OJR. Sustainable Travel means to walk, cycle or scoot and leave the car at home. We are aware that of course some of you are dropping off and going on to work so may need your car. Where possible though, please leave your car at home or parked away from school and complete your journey on foot. KS1 has a lot of very small children and their safety is of the utmost importance to us here at school. Mrs. Brenta, along with a number of parents, who works hard on the School Travel Plan, has been shocked by the number of cars parked (and on the zig zags or double yellow lines) outside the church, and has asked that you reconsider your journey to and from school and choose to travel on foot, bike or scooter. The traffic at Alexis St has certainly decreased since the barriers and ANPR cameras have been in place - for that we thank you, the children reported to Mrs. Brenta how much safer they feel when coming to and from school.

Easter Holidays

Remember we break up for Easter next Friday – 31st March – at 13:15 (KS1/OJR) and 13:30 (KS2/Alexis St). There is no after school club facility on this final day of a full term as always. We will have an Easter service in church on this final day of term at 09:30. All are welcome to attend this. We will be away from school for two weeks, returning for the Summer term at normal school times on Monday 17th April.

Free Easter Holiday Cycle Training in Southwark

Please find the flier attached again FYI. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website: <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Southwark Food and Fun programme - Easter 2023

The programme will deliver free activities and healthy food for school aged children aged 4-16 years old and eligible for and in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) during the holidays. Follow this link for further info:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/healthy-eating?chapter=8>

Events Next Week

Monday: Nursery Easter Craft morning – 09:30-11:00. Parents and carers of nursery children invited in to school at OJR to make Easter crafts with your children.

Tuesday: Year 5 parents/carers meeting regarding secondary school applications with Mrs Brenta and Mr. Oliver. 14:00 at Alexis St.

Wednesday: All Year 5 to the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank for a concert.

Wednesday& Thursday: Years 1&2 Production. Both days at 14:00 in the Old Jamaica Road hall. All Year 1 & 2 parents and carers welcome. Year 4 Level 1 Cycle Confident training at Alexis St.

Friday: End of term Easter Service in St. James's Church at 09:30. All welcome to attend. Break up for Easter Holidays. HALF DAY – 13:15 Old Jamaica Road/13:30 Alexis St. No after-school club provision on the final day of term.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a super weekend with a longer, lighter Sunday evening! Spring is most definitely near...

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of the Spring term and what a lot of exciting events and trips we've had recently! Thanks to Nursery parents and carers for attending our Easter Craft morning on Monday and many thanks to Miss Thorne for organising this. Our Year 1 & 2 children performed SUPERBLY in their production of 'Jack & the Beanstalk' this week – well done to them, to all our teachers, and to Miss Jess for a super show. This week Year 4 children participated in their Cycle Confident sessions and 5 India have their final swimming session today. Do note – 5 Japan will start their swimming sessions after Easter, their first session will be on Friday 21st April and kits will be needed for this. Children's usual PE days will remain the same next half term. We attended church this morning for a lovely Easter service – all are invited as usual for our Church Service to welcome us back to school in the Summer term at 09:30 on Monday 17th April, our first day back after the holidays.

FSM Food Vouchers – Easter Holidays

After the pilot scheme in February half term, Southwark have informed us that this scheme will continue in the same way – you will receive POP vouchers (if eligible) to redeem in a Post Office. The only difference this time is that we will not be sending vouchers home with the children, instead they will be e-mailed directly to you or delivered to your postal addresses (do look out for both!). This means that if there are any issues, you will need to contact Southwark directly with the details provided on your vouchers. Each voucher will have a face value of £30 – this equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day, for the 10 days of the Easter holiday. You should receive these on or by Friday 31st March - today. Do note they might come to you later on in the day.

SchoolsBuddy – OJR Breakfast and After-School Club Booking

Thank you once again to those of you using SchoolsBuddy to book and pay for breakfast and after school club sessions at OJR. We remind you that by using the app you are able to book sessions in advance at any time and can also cancel sessions should your requirements change, right up to the minute that clubs start. We appreciate that whilst there might be the odd occasion when you are unable to do this, the majority of the time you should be using this system so that we can plan staffing and catering accordingly. The sessions for the Summer term will be accessible for booking on SchoolsBuddy from Monday 10th April. A reminder of how to book on SchoolsBuddy is posted on the school website: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/afterschoolclub>

SchoolsBuddy – Parents' Evening Booking

Dates for Parents' Evening are now available to book on SchoolsBuddy, as we did for our Autumn meetings. Logon to the SchoolsBuddy app, available times will be displayed, and choose the 10-minute slot to meet with your child/ren's teacher/s. You can only book one slot per child. If your family requirements are different to this, please contact the office who will be able to assist you. For further explanation of booking with SchoolsBuddy, visit the school website at: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com> and click on Contact Us\SchoolsBuddy at St James'.

Both events take place in the hall at Old Jamaica Road and the dates are as follows:

- Parent's Evening for Nursery, Reception & Years 1 & 2 is on Wednesday 19th April;
- Parent's Evening for Belgium class and Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 is on Wednesday 26th April.

Absences

Please do report to us if your child is going to be absent from school. You can call or email the office, or through Studybugs (free APP) reporting system for when your child is absent through illness. Follow the link for further information: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

If they are absent for any other reason, please do email office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk with the reason for absence. If they have a Medical appointment, please send in the appointment details so the register can be marked accordingly, although we would encourage you to make appointments before or after school, or in the school holidays where at all possible.

Year 5 Parents Secondary School Meeting

Thank you to all Year 5 parents and carers for coming along to the Secondary School meeting with Mrs. Brenta and me on Tuesday; it was lovely to see so many of you. The information sheet is available on the web site:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=Secondary+School+Information&pid=81>

We will be updating this regularly when we receive any relevant information so do keep checking, although Mrs. Brenta assures me that she will email and text reminders about the application process and with information on Open Days.

'STEM' Poster Competition Winners

Miss Rozier is delighted to announce the following competition winners from her 'STEM' poster competition:

- 1st place: Elmira Year 6;
- 2nd place: Sienna Year 4;
- 3rd place: Eliza Year 2.

Free Easter Holiday Cycle Training in Southwark

Please find the flier attached again FYI. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website: <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Southwark Food and Fun programme - Easter 2023

The programme will deliver free activities and healthy food for school aged children aged 4-16 years old and eligible for and in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) during the holidays. Follow this link for further info:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/healthy-eating?chapter=8>

There is also an attachment for another local holiday club attached over Easter should this be of interest.

We're wishing you, the children, and our whole school community a really lovely, happy and healthy Easter holiday. We're looking forward to seeing everyone back for the Summer term at usual times on Monday 17th April.

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**

Newsletter 21st April 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to everyone after a long Easter holiday! It's been lovely to hear all about what the children have been doing with their break and to see everyone happy and raring to go for the Summer term! All children this week from Reception-Year 6 have taken part in Shakespeare explorer workshops and explored a range of different plays, producing some wonderful work around these. Year 5 went on a super trip to Kew Gardens on Wednesday and music and swimming lessons also re-commence.

On Monday we all attended church for a 'Welcome Back' service. Canon Gary attended and formally introduced my Headteacher appointment on 1st May to the children who have all been so lovely and congratulated me themselves this week. I must thank all our parents and carers for your kind words and e-mails – I'm very touched, and feel very blessed, to be part of such a warm, supportive community. I'll let you know of any arrangements we'll put in place for Mrs Willis's retirement soon. In the meantime, if you feel you'd like to add to a collection for her, please do bring in anything to the office at either site in an envelope.

KS2 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 26th April

Thanks to all parents and carers who attended OJR on Wednesday for EYFS and KS1 Parents' Evening. Don't forget our KS2 Parents' Evening is still available to book on SchoolsBuddy, as we did for our Autumn meetings. Logon to the SchoolsBuddy app, available times will be displayed, and choose the 10-minute slot to meet with your child/ren's teacher/s. You can only book one slot per child. For further explanation of booking with SchoolsBuddy, visit the school website

at: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com> and click on Contact Us\SchoolsBuddy at St James'. A reminder that our Belgium class and Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Parents' Evening will take place in the hall at **Old Jamaica Road** as before, next week, on **Wednesday 26th April**. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

'Beep, Beep! Day' - Nursery Children

Nursery will all be taking part in 'Beep, Beep!' Day on Wednesday 26th April. This will be an exciting fun filled day of Road Safety activities. The main aim of 'Beep, Beep!' Day is to help children to start learning the basics of road safety through fun activities, and to raise awareness among parents and the local community about protecting children on roads.

Roads/Access – Alexis St

On the subject of roads, the ANPR camera is now live at Alexis St and you will have read previously how we campaigned for this to protect our children. The temporary barrier has gone, but there is NO ACCESS through to Alexis St (unless you live there) between 08:45-09:15 and 15:00-15:30. If you do have to drive to Alexis St, please observe the signs and park before the restriction, not only so you won't get a fixed penalty fine, but mainly to ensure the safety of our school community. The building work at the old Cherry Garden School is also very busy, with deliveries and lorries arriving daily. Please be extra careful when crossing and do remind children who come and go to school alone to remember their road safety lessons.

Events Next Week

Monday – Year 6 TfL Junior Citizenship Trip; Year 1 Horniman Museum Trip; 5 India to library.

Tuesday – 3 Norway to library.

Wednesday – 'Beep Beep' Day for Nursery; Year 2 visiting 'England Preserves'; KS2 Parents' Evening at OJR as above.

Friday – 5 Japan swimming; recorder and violin lessons; 2 Spain to library.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a wonderful weekend!

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**

Newsletter 28th April 2023

Dear Parents & Carers, We've had a busy, productive week at St. James' with lots to celebrate and some terrific work being produced. Year 6 took part in a TfL Junior Citizenship workshop on Monday promoting the importance of keeping safe before their secondary school transfers in September; Year 1 went on an amazing trip to the Horniman Museum Aquarium on Monday; Year 2 went on a jam-making workshop to England Preserves on Wednesday as part of their food topic; Nursery children had fun with their 'Beep Beep' day on Wednesday promoting road safety and 3 Norway, 5 India and 2 Spain have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book-swapping and story-telling. 5 Japan continue their swimming today and violin and recorder lessons continue as usual in preparation for our music concerts as per the 'dates for your diaries' letter.

Miss Jess is busy rehearsing for our imminent productions of 'Matilda' (Years 3&4) and 'Oliver' (Years 5&6) too and children are continuing to thrive in their performing arts lessons. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around the theme 'You Know Me' and we've thought about all the different ways God knows and looks after us. Next week we'll focus our attentions on the King's Coronation in Collective worship. Year 6 SATS

Week/Testing

Our incredible Year 6 students all have their SATS tests from Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May. They have all been working so hard and I'm sure they will really show off all their learning during this week. It is really important that children are in on time each day to ensure they sit these and come in to school happy and calm so they're ready. Year 2 SATS are much less formal, and children will take these when we feel the children are calm and ready and all are in attendance.

Year 1 Phonics tests and Year 4 Multiplication checks are also imminent and we have windows of time to administer these. We pride ourselves in have little to no test anxiety in our school; we simply ask all children to try their very best and show us what they have learnt. Do encourage them in the same way! Thank you so much as ever for your support and encouragement at home.

Rose Vouchers Rose vouchers are available for families with children under 5 to buy fresh fruit and vegetables every week, follow this link for further information:

https://www.alexandrarose.org.uk/how-to-getrose-vouchers-results/?_sft_project_type=children-familycentre&_sft_project_location=southwark Cycle Confident –

May Half Term Please find attached a flier advertising Southwark's Cycle Confident courses during May half term. Do have a read and book should you be interested in this.

Events Next Week Monday –

School closed to children for May Day Bank Holiday. Tuesday – 3 Sweden and Belgium class to library. ESOL Course continuing at OJR in the afternoon. Friday – 5 Japan swimming; recorder and violin lessons; 2 France to library.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a super, long, May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 5th may 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

A short, yet successful, week in school! Class topics and books continue to go really well and children are achieving wonderful things in their lessons with lots to celebrate as always! 3 Sweden, Belgium class and 2 France have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book-swapping and story-telling. 5 Japan continue their swimming today and violin and recorder lessons continue as usual in preparation for our music concerts as per the 'dates for your diaries' letter. Miss Jess is still super busy rehearsing for our imminent productions of 'Matilda' (Years 3&4) and 'Oliver' (Years 5&6) too and children are continuing to thrive in their performing arts lessons.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around the King's Coronation; next week we'll think about all the different ways God shows love to all of us.

Year 6 SATS Week/Testing

Our incredible Year 6 students all have their SATS tests next week (from Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May). They continue to work so hard and I'm sure they will really show off all their learning next week. BEST OF LUCK TO ALL INVOLVED! It is really important that children are in on time each day to ensure they sit these and come in to school happy and calm so they're ready. Year 2 SATS are much less formal, and children will take these when we feel the children are calm and ready and all are in attendance. Year 1 Phonics tests and Year 4 Multiplication checks are also imminent and we have windows of time to administer these. We pride ourselves in have little to no test anxiety in our school; we simply ask all children to try their very best and show us what they have learnt. Do encourage them in the same way! Thank you so much as ever for your support and encouragement at home.

Walk to School Week – 15th-19th May

Our school is taking part in Walk to School Week (15th-19th May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity 'Living Streets' and is designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. This year's challenge, 'Walk with Wildlife', encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various animals along the way, they'll learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or 'Park and Stride') to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

What do I need to do as a Parent/Carer? We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school on w/c 15th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. In return, your child will earn special stickers and a reward trophy! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus/train ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cycle Confident – May Half Term

Please find attached a flier advertising Southwark's Cycle Confident courses during May half term. Do have a read and book should you be interested in this.

Events Next Week

Monday – School closed to children for extra Coronation Bank Holiday.

Tuesday – 4 Ghana to library. ESOL Course continuing at OJR in the afternoon.

Friday – 5 Japan swimming; recorder and violin lessons; 4 Kenya to library.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a lovely, long, Bank Holiday weekend.

God bless,
from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 12th may 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another short week in school! SATS for Year 6 went really smoothly. Class topics and books continue to go well and children are achieving super work as always! Year 4 are/have all visited the Blue Anchor library for book-swapping and story-telling. 5 Japan continue their swimming today and violin and recorder lessons continue as usual in preparation for our music concerts as per the 'dates for your diaries' letter. Miss Jess is still super busy rehearsing for our imminent productions of 'Matilda' (Years 3&4) and 'Oliver' (Years 5&6) too and children are continuing to thrive in their performing arts lessons.

Our Collective Worship theme will continue next week to think about all the different ways God shows love.

SATS/Statutory Testing

Year 6 children performed with aplomb this week in their KS2 SATS – they were so ready and prepared for these tests in Maths and English and we are incredibly proud of all of them. Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring they came into school ready and raring to go for these! Year 2 SATS are much less formal, and children will take these when we feel they are calm and ready and all are in attendance – we'll start these next week. Year 1 Phonics tests and Year 4 Multiplication checks are also imminent and we have windows of time to administer these after half term. As we reminded previously, we pride ourselves in have little to no test anxiety in our school; we simply ask all children to try their very best and show us what they have learnt. Do encourage them in the same way! Thank you so much as ever for your support and encouragement at home.

Walk to School Week – 15th-19th May

Another reminder that our school is taking part in 'Walk to School Week' next week (15th-19th May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity 'Living Streets' and is designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. This year's challenge, 'Walk with Wildlife', encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various animals along the way, they'll learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or 'Park and Stride') to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

What do I need to do as a Parent/Carer? We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school on w/c 15th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. In return, your child will earn special stickers and a reward trophy! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus/train ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Open Evening – Wednesday 17th May until 17:45

We warmly invite you to attend either site next Wednesday to see your child/ren's learning and classrooms. As always, you are welcome in after school and children will lead you to their classrooms to see their learning. Class teachers will be around but do be mindful that we've had our parents' evenings and that they may be busy marking books or planning lessons during this time!

Mini Grey Author Visit – Key Stage Two

I'm very excited to announce that author and illustrator Mini Grey is visiting Alexis St on Friday 26th May to do workshops and assemblies with Years 5&6. Please find attached a pre-order form in case you'd like to purchase any of her incredible books! Follow the link on the attachment to purchase. ALL children at Alexis St will have this opportunity to buy these and even get to meet Mini near the end of the day for a personal book signing if they have purchased a book. Only Years 5&6 are taking part in workshops, however children in Years 3, 4 and Belgium are more than welcome to attend the book signing; we will facilitate this in school.

Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda' – Weds 24th - Thurs 25th May

We're really looking forward to our next production of 'Matilda' on the above dates at 2pm on both days with a 6pm performance on the Wednesday evening. Do make sure children are learning any lines or song lyrics they are coming home with – thank you for your support with this! Miss Jess will also send some costume request items to you imminently too.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's Family Lives newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-may23?e=10e6384bfc>

Cycle Confident – May Half Term

Please find attached a flier advertising Southwark's Cycle Confident courses during May half term. Do have a read and book should you be interested in this.

Events Next Week

Monday – 6 Brazil to library.

Tuesday – 5 Japan to library. ESOL Course continuing at OJR in the afternoon.

Wednesday – Open evening at both sites – let children show you their learning in their classrooms up to 17:45.

Friday – 5 Japan swimming; recorder and violin lessons; 1 Germany to library.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a super weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 19th May 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Things continue to be busy and buzzing in school with some amazing work this week. Children from Years 1-6 have all had a visitor coming in for workshops and talks around our Relationships and Health Education; 6 Brazil, 5 Japan and 1 Germany have all visited/are visiting the library; we were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers into school on Wednesday for our very well-attended Open Evening at both sites and our swimming, music and performing arts lessons all continue to go really well. Time is really flying by and we only have one more week before the Summer half term! We have a busy, fun week planned for our final week of term as per below.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been about all the different ways God shows love. Next week, we'll think about all the different ways we can all be filled with God's love with the Holy Spirit.

Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda' – Weds 24th - Thurs 25th May

We're really looking forward to our next production of 'Matilda' on the above dates (next week) at 2pm on both days with a 6pm performance on the Wednesday evening. Do make sure children are learning any lines or song lyrics they are coming home with – thank you for your support with this! Hopefully the simple costume items requested (mainly school uniform!) are all fine.

Years 3&4 Violin Recital – Friday 26th May in the OJR Hall

Years 3&4 also have their Violin Recital at 2pm next Friday – 26th May – in the OJR hall at 2pm. All parents and carers are warmly invited to come to this as well!

Mini Grey Author Visit – Key Stage Two, Fri 26th May

Another reminder that author and illustrator Mini Grey is visiting Alexis St on Friday 26th May to do workshops and assemblies with Years 5&6. Please find attached a pre-order form in case you'd like to purchase any of her incredible books! Follow the link on the attachment to purchase. ALL children at Alexis St will have this opportunity to buy these and even get to meet Mini near the end of the day for a personal book signing if they have purchased a book. Only Years 5&6 are taking part in workshops, however children in Years 3, 4 and Belgium are more than welcome to attend the book signing; we will facilitate this in school.

Free School Meal Vouchers – Summer Half Term

These will be delivered to you in the same way as the Easter and February Half Term holidays – do look out for e-mails to redeem these. A reminder of how you can redeem these vouchers with information sent from Southwark Council:

- Where we hold an email address for the parent/carer of an eligible pupil, the POP vouchers will be sent directly to their email address on **Friday 26 May 2023**;
- Where no email address is held and only a postal address is provided, the POP voucher will be sent to the parent/carer of the eligible pupil by post, from w/c **Monday 29 May 2023**;
- The POP voucher greeting will state 'Dear parent/carer of (pupil's name);
- Parents who receive their POP voucher via email, are not required to print the POP voucher and are able to use the electronic voucher to get their payment. Where parents receive the voucher via letter, they will need to take their POP voucher letter to any Post Office branch within 1 month of the date of the letter to get their payment;
- The POP voucher provides the parent/carer with additional information on how to redeem the voucher;
- Each voucher will have a face value of £15 – This equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day for the 5 days of the May half term holiday.

Free Webinar for Parents of EYFS (Reception and Nursery) Children

The [Early Years Alliance](#) is running a free, 1 hour webinar on **Thursday 8th June 10-11am** to parents of children aged 0-5 years, about simple steps to take to keep children safe when using online devices. Come and engage with this free thought-provoking webinar, delivered by charity trust LGfL, to find out what practical steps you can take to make sure your child is safe when using a device, and how to promote healthy use of devices with your pre-schooler. Enrol for their webinar by clicking the Family Connect link below:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-connect-screens-in-the-early-years-tickets-633434709267?utm_campaign=DigiSafe&hsenc=p2ANqtz--iN69fdXokjDXlLxy7-u5GFbbeN0EzI29hlE5eSHlzJzzMTVEMcJ6DJGOwjOOprNVHAsRJ5fbcqIChJYWC876UHm8umXJjmd8LIY1K9qOVr76p4NU&utm_content=258499311&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&hsmi=258499311

You can also access lots of internet safety advice at their ParentSafe website:

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

Cost of Living assistance with Broadband

Follow the link to OFCOM, for further information on cheaper broadband if you are in receipt of Universal Credit or other benefits:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Cycle Confident – May Half Term

Please find attached a flier advertising Southwark's Cycle Confident courses during May half term. Do have a read and book should you be interested in this.

Events Next Week

Monday – Booster Cushion Theatre performing a production to Key Stage One children in the afternoon at OJR.

Tuesday – Reception to library. ESOL Course continuing at OJR in the afternoon.

Wednesday – Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda' at 2pm and 6pm – OJR Hall; Years 5&6 to the Royal Festival Hall for a 'Brightsparks' concert.

Thursday - Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda' at 2pm – OJR Hall.

Friday – 5 Japan swimming; recorder and violin lessons; 1 Italy to library; Years 3&4 Violin recital – 2pm in the OJR Hall; Mini Grey visit – workshops for Years 5&6.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a lovely weekend! Don't forget we break up next Friday for a week at the normal school times – 15:15 OJR/15:30 Alexis St.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 26th May 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

A busy, productive week to end a busy, productive term! Years 3&4 performed their wonderful production of 'Matilda'; Years 5&6 went to the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday to see a London Symphony Orchestra concert of 'The Firebird'; Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One children were all treated to a performance of 'Old MacDonald' on Monday by Booster Cushion Theatre; Reception and 1 Italy have had their library visits; Years 5&6 are taking part in workshops with the Author Mini Grey today and Years 3&4 will get to have any books signed which they have bought; Years 3&4 have their final performance of the week with their Violin recital this afternoon as per below and 5 Japan have their final Swimming session today.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been about all the Holy Spirit and how God is always there. We've discussed this and the connection to Ascension.

Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda'

I was amazed with the children this week – they all performed wonderfully! Many thanks as always to all teachers and of course, Miss Jess, for producing another wonderful show. There are lots of pictures and video reels on our Instagram account - [@st_jamesschool](#) – for you to see. Wednesday evening was so well attended we ran out of seats, however thank you for being so co-operative and understanding of this. I can't wait to see what other year groups have to offer now in their Summer term 2 productions!

Years 3&4 Violin Recital – Friday 26th May in the OJR Hall

Years 3&4 also have their Violin Recital at 2pm this afternoon – 26th May – in the OJR hall at 2pm. All parents and carers are warmly invited to come to this!

6 Brazil – Swimming Sessions Summer Term 2

Parents and carers of 6 Brazil children – you should have received an e-mail regarding swimming session details for next half term. Swimming sessions will commence on Friday 9th June for 6 weeks. Kit required is all on the e-mail sent earlier in the week so everyone has plenty of time over half term to get prepared for this.

Free School Meal Vouchers – Summer Half Term

Another reminder that these will be delivered to you in the same way as the Easter and February Half Term holidays – do look out for e-mails to redeem these. A reminder of how you can redeem these vouchers with information sent from Southwark Council:

- Where we hold an email address for the parent/carer of an eligible pupil, the POP vouchers will be sent directly to their email address today, **Friday 26 May 2023**;
- Where no email address is held and only a postal address is provided, the POP voucher will be sent to the parent/carer of the eligible pupil by post, from w/c **Monday 29 May 2023**;
- The POP voucher greeting will state 'Dear parent/carer of (pupil's name);
- Parents who receive their POP voucher via email, are not required to print the POP voucher and are able to use the electronic voucher to get their payment. Where parents receive the voucher via letter, they will need to take their POP voucher letter to any Post Office branch within 1 month of the date of the letter to get their payment;
- The POP voucher provides the parent/carer with additional information on how to redeem the voucher;
- Each voucher will have a face value of £15 – This equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day for the 5 days of the May half term holiday.

New JAG (Junior Adventure Group) Club Opportunities

Please find information below for two new club opportunities which will be run by Imran and the JAG team at Alexis St. during Summer term 2. Links are provided for booking and payment.

Join us for unforgettable Friday adventures at Junior Adventures Group!

After the half term holiday, get ready for an afterschool club filled with:

Arts and Crafts; Cookie decorating; Chocolate rice crispy cakes; Talent shows and much more!

Let your child's creativity soar and taste the sweetness of fun. Secure their spot today by booking online at: <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk>

Join us for Years 3 & 4 Football Club each Tuesday!

Join our Children's Football Club every Tuesday after the half term holiday, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Here you will: Learn skills; Improve technique; Play matches.

Secure your child's spot now by visiting: <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk>

Year 5 Parents and Carers – PGL School Journey June 2024

Year 5 parents and carers should have received an e-mail and letter this week giving dates and payment details/options for next year's Year 6 Residential. We'll let you know when SchoolsBuddy is set up so deposits can be made to secure places. Do discuss this with your child; Year 6 always have a super time away on these residential trips!

SchoolsBuddy App – School Booking System

We have found many ways that the St James' SchoolsBuddy account can help us organise school events. Please make sure you download the app and can logon, or contact the school office if you need any help. Bookings can clearly be made, or cancelled, and any outstanding balance or credit will show on your account when you logon. This webpage explains how to logon and use its' features:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=SchoolsBuddy+at+St+James%27&pid=172> . We already rely on SchoolsBuddy for parents to book their parent consultations with teachers.

Our current Year 5 will be using the app to pay instalments towards the children's PGL residential trip in Summer 2024, as mentioned above. Many thanks to our Early Years and KS1 parents for using SchoolsBuddy to book Breakfast and After School Club sessions at Old Jamaica Road. This makes the organisation of staff available and catering for the children so much easier. Sessions for Summer Term 2 will be available to book on the app from **Thursday 1st June**.

Events Next Half Term – please check the updated ‘dates’ letter for more events and trips!

Monday 5th June: Back to school for Summer term 2 at normal school times.

Tuesday 6th June: Class photos at both sites – all children to have their photos taken in class groups. Full, smart uniform please!

Thursday 8th June: Year 4 to the British Museum for a tour of the Mesopotamia Exhibition as part of their History topic work; Nursery tour 13:30 for prospective parents.

Friday 9th June: 6 Brazil swimming sessions start as per separate e-mail, each Friday for the final Summer term for 6 weeks; Ivana from @storyingspace joining Year 4 for a story-telling workshop at Alexis St.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a really lovely, happy, restful and safe half term break. We look forward to seeing you all back to school for our final half term on Monday 5th June at the usual school times.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

A busy, productive week to end a busy, productive term! Years 3&4 performed their wonderful production of 'Matilda'; Years 5&6 went to the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday to see a London Symphony Orchestra concert of 'The Firebird'; Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One children were all treated to a performance of 'Old MacDonald' on Monday by Booster Cushion Theatre; Reception and 1 Italy have had their library visits; Years 5&6 are taking part in workshops with the Author Mini Grey today and Years 3&4 will get to have any books signed which they have bought; Years 3&4 have their final performance of the week with their Violin recital this afternoon as per below and 5 Japan have their final Swimming session today.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been about all the Holy Spirit and how God is always there. We've discussed this and the connection to Ascension.

Years 3&4 Production of 'Matilda'

I was amazed with the children this week – they all performed wonderfully! Many thanks as always to all teachers and of course, Miss Jess, for producing another wonderful show. There are lots of pictures and video reels on our Instagram account - [@st_jamesschool](#) – for you to see. Wednesday evening was so well attended we ran out of seats, however thank you for being so co-operative and understanding of this. I can't wait to see what other year groups have to offer now in their Summer term 2 productions!

Years 3&4 Violin Recital – Friday 26th May in the OJR Hall

Years 3&4 also have their Violin Recital at 2pm this afternoon – 26th May – in the OJR hall at 2pm. All parents and carers are warmly invited to come to this!

6 Brazil – Swimming Sessions Summer Term 2

Parents and carers of 6 Brazil children – you should have received an e-mail regarding swimming session details for next half term. Swimming sessions will commence on Friday 9th June for 6 weeks. Kit required is all on the e-mail sent earlier in the week so everyone has plenty of time over half term to get prepared for this.

Free School Meal Vouchers – Summer Half Term

Another reminder that these will be delivered to you in the same way as the Easter and February Half Term holidays – do look out for e-mails to redeem these. A reminder of how you can redeem these vouchers with information sent from Southwark Council:

- Where we hold an email address for the parent/carer of an eligible pupil, the POP vouchers will be sent directly to their email address today, **Friday 26 May 2023**;
- Where no email address is held and only a postal address is provided, the POP voucher will be sent to the parent/carer of the eligible pupil by post, from w/c **Monday 29 May 2023**;
- The POP voucher greeting will state 'Dear parent/carer of (pupil's name);
- Parents who receive their POP voucher via email, are not required to print the POP voucher and are able to use the electronic voucher to get their payment. Where parents receive the voucher via letter, they will need to take their POP voucher letter to any Post Office branch within 1 month of the date of the letter to get their payment;
- The POP voucher provides the parent/carer with additional information on how to redeem the voucher;
- Each voucher will have a face value of £15 – This equates to £3 per meal voucher, per day for the 5 days of the May half term holiday.

New JAG (Junior Adventure Group) Club Opportunities

Please find information below for two new club opportunities which will be run by Imran and the JAG team at Alexis St. during Summer term 2. Links are provided for booking and payment.

Join us for unforgettable Friday adventures at Junior Adventures Group!

After the half term holiday, get ready for an afterschool club filled with:

Arts and Crafts; Cookie decorating; Chocolate rice crispy cakes; Talent shows and much more!

Let your child's creativity soar and taste the sweetness of fun. Secure their spot today by booking online at: <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk>

Join us for Years 3 & 4 Football Club each Tuesday!

Join our Children's Football Club every Tuesday after the half term holiday, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Here you will: Learn skills; Improve technique; Play matches.

Secure your child's spot now by visiting: <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk>

Year 5 Parents and Carers – PGL School Journey June 2024

Year 5 parents and carers should have received an e-mail and letter this week giving dates and payment details/options for next year's Year 6 Residential. We'll let you know when SchoolsBuddy is set up so deposits can be made to secure places. Do discuss this with your child; Year 6 always have a super time away on these residential trips!

SchoolsBuddy App – School Booking System

We have found many ways that the St James' SchoolsBuddy account can help us organise school events. Please make sure you download the app and can logon, or contact the school office if you need any help. Bookings can clearly be made, or cancelled, and any outstanding balance or credit will show on your account when you logon. This webpage explains how to logon and use its' features:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=SchoolsBuddy+at+St+James%27&pid=172> . We already rely on SchoolsBuddy for parents to book their parent consultations with teachers.

Our current Year 5 will be using the app to pay instalments towards the children's PGL residential trip in Summer 2024, as mentioned above. Many thanks to our Early Years and KS1 parents for using SchoolsBuddy to book Breakfast and After School Club sessions at Old Jamaica Road. This makes the organisation of staff available and catering for the children so much easier. Sessions for Summer Term 2 will be available to book on the app from **Thursday 1st June**.

Events Next Half Term – please check the updated ‘dates’ letter for more events and trips!

Monday 5th June: Back to school for Summer term 2 at normal school times.

Tuesday 6th June: Class photos at both sites – all children to have their photos taken in class groups. Full, smart uniform please!

Thursday 8th June: Year 4 to the British Museum for a tour of the Mesopotamia Exhibition as part of their History topic work; Nursery tour 13:30 for prospective parents.

Friday 9th June: 6 Brazil swimming sessions start as per separate e-mail, each Friday for the final Summer term for 6 weeks; Ivana from @storyingspace joining Year 4 for a story-telling workshop at Alexis St.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a really lovely, happy, restful and safe half term break. We look forward to seeing you all back to school for our final half term on Monday 5th June at the usual school times.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 16th June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy week at this busy time of year! Highlights have included: a Year 6 visit from the Old Operating Theatre as part of the 'Medieval Medicines and Diseases' topic; Year 6 have also attended the Science Museum and had trips to Hyde Park and Southwark Park; Year 5 attended a super music workshop at St. Saviour's & St. Olave's which was enjoyed by all; Years 3&4 children had more Cycle Confident workshops at Alexis St (these were kindly delivered as extra sessions due to popular demand!); Key Stage One children continue to impress us with their Recorder playing; Key Stage Two children are also performing really well with their Violin and Music Theory lessons; 6 Brazil are attending their swimming lessons each Friday and 4 Ghana, 4 Kenya and 1 Germany have all visited the library. Year 3 children and KS1 after school club children have been seeing the rewards of careful gardening with some lovely, fresh produce.

It was also great to welcome new Reception parents and carers to school to meet Miss Molly and see what their children's Reception year would be like – so lovely to see so many new faces to be a part of our St. James' community.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has continued with readings from Acts this term to see what we can learn from these and the Apostles in the early days of Christianity.

Statutory Testing and Children's Progress

Children in Year 1 performed brilliantly this week in their Phonics Screening tests – a huge 'well done' to them all! All Year 4 children have completed their Multiplication Tables Checks and Years 2 & 6 SATs are also complete. We have one more assessment week imminently to give a picture of the children's learning and progress this year. All results, whether they be school judgments or statutory tests, will be given in children's end of year reports which will come to you via e-mail at the end of term.

Reception Sports Day

We're warmly inviting parents and carers to our Reception Sports Day next week on Thursday 22nd June. Do come to OJR for 13:30 when we'll start and cheer the children on! The date for the Key Stage 1&2 sports day in Thursday 6th July and will be held at Southwark Park Athletics Track. Mr. Brenta will pass on information nearer the time for this, however Years 1&2 will be in the morning and Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will compete in the afternoon.

Southwark Storytelling Festival

We're delighted to support and advertise this event which will be held in Southwark Park on Saturday 8th July – 11am-4pm. Please see the flier attached for more details. Ivana from [@storying_space](#) will be taking part and also delivering another super story-telling session in school for Years 3&4 on Friday 7th July.

Capoeira Classes

Another reminder of the attached flier advertising Capoeira classes, running each Tuesday from 16:00-17:00 at Haddon Hall. Contact details can be found on the attachment.

Cycle Confident Courses – Summer Holidays

Please also find attached again the Cycle Confident information about local cycling courses for the Summer holidays should this be of interest.

Costumes for Years 5&6 'Oliver' Production

Another gentle reminder for parents and carers of years 5&6 children – Miss Jess will be in touch soon about specific items, however do keep a look out for Victorian themed costume such as: waistcoats, flat caps, shirts, long skirts, shawls for our production of 'Oliver' in July. As always, we never want you to spend any money on costumes – just ask family members/look through wardrobes etc for things you might have that could be worn in the production.

Events Next Week – please check the updated 'dates' letter for more events and trips!

Sky Arts week for all children!

Monday: 6 Canada to library;

Tuesday: Year 6 Stuart Lawrence talk; Year 6 Little Fish Theatre production to prepare for secondary school transitions; 5 India to library;

Thursday: Reception Sports Day in OJR playground from 13:30 as above;

Friday: Violin lessons KS2; 6 Brazil swimming; Reception to the Blue Anchor library; 3 Norway attending a story-telling session in the Lucey Way orchard.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a lovely weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a really lovely, really sunny week here in St. James'! 6 Canada, 5 India and Reception have all had library visits; Year 3 are all in the Orchard behind Alexis St this afternoon for a story-telling session; Reception children performed amazingly in the sun yesterday with their Sports Day at OJR and Year 6 have continued to do lots of transition work ready for secondary school with a talk from Stuart Lawrence (Stephen Lawrence's brother) and a performance from 'Little Fish Theatre'. Our Collective Worship theme continues with readings from Acts this term to see what we can learn from these and the Apostles in the early days of Christianity.

Year 6 School Journey – Monday-Wednesday Next Week

We're very excited to be heading to PGL Marchant's Hill in Surrey next week for our Year 6 residential trip – very full timetables with great activities are in store for all! Do come to the OFFICE/MAIN RECEPTION entrance at Alexis St for 08:45 on Monday – we're planning on a swift departure. Please send children with a packed lunch for Monday only, the rest of the meals will all be provided while we are there. Children are allowed to bring a small amount of money – no more than £5.00 – which we can look after for the children if in a wallet/envelope. Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones with them or any other electrical devices. We will keep in touch and send text updates/post pictures on Instagram so do look out for these while we're away! We aim to arrive back to school on Wednesday afternoon around usual pick-up time. We will text updating you with this on the day too.

Year 5 – Residential Trip June 2024

Following internal discussions regarding the payments for next year's residential trip, we have decided on a more flexible payment format through SchoolsBuddy which we hope will help everyone to be able to fund the trip; we want as many of next year's Year 6 children as possible to be able to come and enjoy this lovely opportunity. The initial deposit to secure your place has now been reduced to £25. This is still non-refundable and must be paid by 29th September. Once you have paid this, you have secured a place for your child on the trip and signalled your intention to pay the remaining £225 throughout the next 9 months. The total remaining amount of the trip will be added to your SchoolsBuddy account on the 1st October (£225). We will remind you each month to make a part-payment of £25, thus ensuring that the full cost is paid for in 9 months, by June 2024. If you want to make larger payments, you can do so but a minimum of £25 must be made each month to ensure the cost is met before the children embark on their adventure. I hope this system provides everyone with a clear picture of the payment plan and makes it affordable for everyone to enjoy. This will be live and available to book via SchoolsBuddy from September.

Year 2-3 Transition Parent Morning

Do note on the 'dates' letter that current Year 2 parents are invited to Alexis St to see the children's new environment in September. We have lots of opportunities for Year 2 to visit Alexis St before the Summer Holidays and this will be a lovely opportunity for you as parents to see our Alexis St site too. This will be from 09:30 on Tuesday 4th July.

Alexis St Orchard Event

Please see attached invitation to an event taking place in the orchard (behind Alexis St) on afternoon of Saturday 24th June. It is a bring-your-own picnic in the Rouel Community orchard from 2pm with stories at 3pm.

Alexis St Road Safety

Although the road closure makes the street next to Alexis St much safer, do be mindful that cars do occasionally still need this for access – i.e. local residents. Do keep an eye on your children still while collecting as a car could appear at any time. In general, however, it really is much better and gives us all a nice space to wait for the children and be able to catch up with each other during collections and drop-offs.

Staying Cool

During the lovely warm weather, do be reminded again to apply sun cream to children before school and send in sun hats and water bottles. It's lovely to take advantage of the sunshine and be outside as much as possible; do help us to do this safely! A reminder also to name jumpers/cardigans – during warm spells, children can be particularly good at leaving these in the playground.

Southwark Storytelling Festival

We're delighted to support and advertise this event which will be held in Southwark Park on Saturday 8th July – 11am-4pm. Please see the flier attached for more details. Ivana from [@storying_space](#) will be taking part and also delivering another super story-telling session in school for Years 1&2 and Years 3&4 on Friday 7th July.

Capoeira Classes

Another reminder of the attached flier advertising Capoeira classes, running each Tuesday from 16:00-17:00 at Haddon Hall. Contact details can be found on the attachment.

Cycle Confident Courses – Summer Holidays

Please also find attached again the Cycle Confident information about local cycling courses for the Summer holidays should this be of interest.

Costumes for Years 5&6 'Oliver' Production

Another gentle reminder for parents and carers of years 5&6 children – Miss Jess will be in touch soon about specific items, however do keep a look out for Victorian themed costume such as: waistcoats, flat caps, shirts, long skirts, shawls for our production of 'Oliver' in July. As always, we never want you to spend any money on costumes – just ask family members/look through wardrobes etc for things you might have that could be worn in the production.

Events Next Week – please check the updated 'dates' letter for more events and trips!

Assessment Week for all children – do encourage them to try their best and show us all they've learnt in our final assessments for the school year.

Monday: Year 6 depart for their school journey to PGL, Marchant's Hill; 5 Japan to library;

Thursday: Year 1&2 Music Recital, do come along and see them perform at 14:00 in the OJR Hall;

Friday: Violin lessons KS2; 6 Brazil swimming; 1 Italy to the Blue Anchor library.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a super, sunny weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 30th June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

An excellent, very busy week here in St. James'! All children have impressed with their hard work and application for our final Assessment week of the academic year; Year 6 had an incredible 3 days at PGL, Marchant's Hill for their residential trip; Years 1&2 performed with gusto in their Recorder and Singing performance yesterday and library visits, swimming and violin lessons have continued as usual too. Another busy week next week as detailed below; do keep checking this and dates letters so dates are firmly in the diary for events you won't want to miss as we approach the end of term.

Our Collective Worship theme continues with readings from Acts this term to see what we can learn from these and the Apostles in the early days of Christianity.

Year 2-3 Transition Parent Morning

Do note on the 'dates' letter that current Year 2 parents are invited to Alexis St to see the children's new environment in September. We have lots of opportunities for Year 2 to visit Alexis St before the Summer Holidays and this will be a lovely opportunity for you as parents to see our Alexis St site too. This will be from 09:30 on Tuesday 4th July.

Sports Day – Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2, Thursday 6th July

We're really looking to our children taking part in their Sports Day next Thursday. This will be at the Southwark Park Athletics track as usual. Years 1 & 2 will compete from 10am-12noon. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will compete from 12:30pm-3pm. Do come and show support at these times. A reminder for ALL children to wear PE kits and trainers on Thursday, bring a water bottle and a sun/baseball hat and to apply sun cream before school.

Reception End of Year Performance – Friday 7th July, 14:00, OJR Hall

We're looking forward to seeing Reception perform their production next Friday at 14:00 in the OJR Hall. Just arrive at OJR slightly before and we'll let you in to school to see this.

Year 5 – Residential Trip June 2024

Following internal discussions regarding the payments for next year's residential trip, we have decided on a more flexible payment format through SchoolsBuddy which we hope will help everyone to be able to fund the trip; we want as many of next year's Year 6 children as possible to be able to come and enjoy this lovely opportunity. The initial deposit to secure your place has now been reduced to £25. This is still non-refundable and must be paid by 29th September. Once you have paid this, you have secured a place for your child on the trip and signalled your intention to pay the remaining £225 throughout the next 9 months. The total remaining amount of the trip will be added to your SchoolsBuddy account on the 1st October (£225). We will remind you each month to make a part-payment of £25, thus ensuring that the full cost is paid for in 9 months, by June 2024. If you want to make larger payments, you can do so but a minimum of £25 must be made each month to ensure the cost is met before the children embark on their adventure. I hope this system provides everyone with a clear picture of the payment plan and makes it affordable for everyone to enjoy. This will be live and available to book via SchoolsBuddy from September.

Southwark Storytelling Festival

We're delighted to support and advertise again this event which will be held in Southwark Park on Saturday 8th July – 11am-4pm. Please see the flier attached for more details. Ivana from [@storying_space](#) will be taking part and also delivering another super story-telling session in school for Years 1&2 and Years 3&4 on Friday 7th July.

Capoeira Classes

Another reminder of the attached flier advertising Capoeira classes, running each Tuesday from 16:00-17:00 at Haddon Hall. Contact details can be found on the attachment.

Cycle Confident Courses – Summer Holidays

Please also find attached again the Cycle Confident information about local cycling courses for the Summer holidays should this be of interest.

Costumes for Years 5&6 'Oliver' Production

Another gentle reminder for parents and carers of years 5&6 children – Miss Jess will be in touch soon about specific items, however do keep a look out for Victorian themed costume such as: waistcoats, flat caps, shirts, long skirts, shawls for our production of 'Oliver' in July. As always, we never want you to spend any money on costumes – just ask family members/look through wardrobes etc for things you might have that could be worn in the production. Miss Jess has sent a letter with pictures home with the Year 6 children this week.

Events Next Week – please check the updated 'dates' letter for more events and trips!

Monday: Paul from Blue Anchor Library delivering 'Summer Reading Challenge' Assemblies at both sites;

Tuesday: Year 2 Parents' Transition Coffee Morning at Alexis St from 09:30 (details above);

Wednesday: Year 6 Southwark Transition to Secondary School Day;

Thursday: Sports Day at the Southwark Park Athletics Track – Years 1&2 10am-12noon; Years 3-6 12:30pm-3pm;

Friday: Violin lessons KS2; 6 Brazil swimming; Nursery tours at 10am (invitation only); Reception Production 14:00 in the OJR Hall.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a lovely weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another excellent (and very busy!) week here in St. James'! All children from Years 1-6 impressed us with their enthusiasm and sportsmanship during yesterday's Sports Day – thank you to Mr. Brenta for organising such a great day as always! Children had assemblies led by Paul from the Blue Anchor Library encouraging them to engage with reading and visit the library more often – do encourage children to complete the 'Summer Reading Challenge' this year; we have previously been the top primary school in Southwark for our engagement! Year 2 parents and carers attended Alexis St on Tuesday for a tour of our KS2 site ready for the move to Year 3 in September; Year 6 children have all had lots of transition days to secondary schools and I'm really looking forward to seeing Reception perform in their Summer production this afternoon at OJR! Our Collective Worship theme continues with readings from Acts this term to see what we can learn from these and the Apostles in the early days of Christianity. Next week we'll begin to focus on 'Moving On'.

Reception End of Year Performance – Today, 14:00, OJR Hall

We're looking forward to seeing Reception perform their production THIS AFTERNOON at 14:00 in the OJR Hall. Just arrive at OJR slightly before and we'll let you in to school to see this.

Nursery Graduation – Tuesday 11th July, 14:00, OJR Hall

This will be on Tuesday 11th July at 2pm in the OJR hall. Those of you who have children who start Reception in September are warmly invited to attend this.

Years 5 & 6 Productions Next Week

We're looking forward to seeing Year 5 & 6 children perform in 'Oliver' next week on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th July at 2pm and 6pm each day. Do choose a performance to attend and be mindful of others and people who may need seats should one of the performances be super busy! Years 5 & 6 will also finish the week with their violin recital on Friday at 2pm which you are also welcome to attend. All performances are at Old Jamaica Road as usual in the hall. Just come slightly before the performance times and we'll welcome you to your seats. Children are to be back for evening performances by 5:45pm on both days.

Year 5 – Residential Trip June 2024

As previously advised, the initial deposit to secure your place has now been reduced to £25. This is still non-refundable and must be paid by 29th September. Once you have paid this, you have secured a place for your child on the trip and signalled your intention to pay the remaining £225 throughout the next 9 months. The total remaining amount of the trip will be added to your SchoolsBuddy account on the 1st October (£225). We will remind you each month to make a part-payment of £25, thus ensuring that the full cost is paid for in 9 months, by June 2024. I hope this system provides everyone with a clear picture of the payment plan and makes it affordable for everyone to enjoy. This will be live and available to book via SchoolsBuddy from 1st September.

Southwark Storytelling Festival

We're delighted to support and advertise again this event which will be held in Southwark Park tomorrow, Saturday 8th July – 11am-4pm. Please see the flier attached for more details. Ivana from [@storying_space](#) will be taking part and also delivering another super story-telling session in school for Years 3&4 this afternoon.

Events Until the End of Term

Monday 10th July: Children at Key Stage One including EYFS seeing a production performed by Booster Cushion theatre in the OJR Hall.

Tuesday 11th July: Nursery Graduation in the OJR Hall at 14:00.

Wednesday 12th July & Thursday 13th July: Years 5&6 Summer production at 14:00 & 18:00 each day in the Old Jamaica Road hall.

Friday 14th July: Years 5 & 6 Violin Recital, 14:00 in the Old Jamaica Road Hall. All parents and carers welcome to attend.

Monday 17th July: All children to meet their new teachers for September during the afternoon.

Monday 17th July: Year 6 Festival Day in school to celebrate the end of their time in school.

Tuesday 18th July: Year 6 Leavers' End of Year service in St. James's Church at 11:00. All welcome to attend. Year 6 parents and carers – do come and say farewell; there will be refreshments for you and Year 6 in Church.

Tuesday 18th July: Break up for Summer Holidays. HALF DAY – 13:15 Old Jamaica Road/13:30 Alexis St. Please note there is no after-school club provision on the final day of term.

We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a super weekend; I can barely believe we only have one more full week left until the end of the year!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

Newsletter 18th July 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

We're coming to the end of a terrific year for St. James'! The children have all achieved such amazing things and we're so very proud of them as always as we see them grow and mature.

We are so sorry to be saying a fond farewell to our Year 6 children however wish them the very best of luck for secondary school; we know they are all ready and will continue to do amazing things in the next stage of their school careers.

We are welcoming new children to St. James' all the time and those who have joined us this year from other schools, or who have moved into the area, have all settled in superbly and have become part of the St. James' community wonderfully.

Staff

We're sorry to be saying goodbye to a few staff members this year. Mrs Hassett is retiring after 19 years of service at St. James'; Miss Tamack, Miss Price and Mr. Luvovadio are all leaving us for different ventures too and we thank them all and wish them all the best for the future.

Classes for September 2023

Children met with their new teachers in new classrooms yesterday which was all very warmly received! No class teachers have left or are joining us this year so we have a very firmly established, familiar teaching team for September. Please find attached a reminder of new class names and class teachers for September.

Good Quality Uniform/Shoes

Please hold on to any good quality uniform your children may have grown out of and bring in to school when we return in September. Mrs. Brenta (and some willing parent volunteers) is going to have a Second-Hand Uniform 'shop' and 'drop-in day' based at Alexis St - more information to come in September! If you are in Year 6 and are leaving us and do not have siblings, then please do try and send in their old clean uniform (or call Mrs. Brenta who will come and collect it).

Summer Reading Challenge

Please find a letter attached with information on this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Paul from the Blue Anchor Library came in to deliver assemblies to the children and promote this and it'd be great if you could too. We're so fortunate to have the Blue Anchor Library so close; let's keep using it as much as we can!

FREE Things to do with Children this Summer

Follow these links for further information:

<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/family-activities/31-free-things-to-do-with-kids>

<https://www.passportstamps.uk/family-travel/free-things-to-do-in-london-for-kids/>

Southwark Summer of Food and Fun

Don't forget the FREE summer scheme from Southwark, follow the link:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/healthy-eating?chapter=8>

Kids eat FREE Scheme (Check the Terms & Conditions)

<https://www.netmums.com/activities/the-best-summer-holiday-mealdeals-for-kids>

Free School Meals Vouchers

As before, if you are eligible to receive free school meals vouchers, these will be emailed

directly to you to cash in at a Post Office. This system has worked really well and we hope this new Southwark system continues to go smoothly for the Summer holidays.

Our Thanks!

On behalf of all the staff, our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the children for making our jobs wonderful and to you, all our parents and carers, for all your usual kind words and support. Your generous gifts and beautifully written cards are all so appreciated and remind us all of the wonderful school community we are part of. We're wishing you, our children, and our whole community a wonderful, restful, happy and safe, long Summer holiday! We're looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th September and will be in touch before-hand with any necessary information.

God bless,
from the St. James' team.