



Dear All,

We're thrilled to welcome everyone back to school after the Christmas Holidays and wish you all a very Happy New Year! It's been lovely to hear all about what the children have been doing over the holidays. Today and yesterday children from Nursery to Year 6 have learnt about Coding as part of their Computing curriculum and they've produced some amazing things from this. We're sure they've been coming home and telling you all about their learning. Yesterday morning Gary, Jacob and Paul gave a lovely 'Welcome Back' service on Epiphany and children have been working on New Year's Resolutions linked to our Character Traits and Bible Readings which can be found in children's home learning diaries. We'll start again with our weekly themes for Collective Worship next week. Attendance has unfortunately not been up to our usual standard in these first two days back – please do refer to reminders on Newsletters each week, our website and school app as well as our text reminders at the beginning and end of each half term. Term dates can be found overleaf for this half term. Home-learning diaries also have important dates in for each week so do keep checking these too when you record your children's reading at home. Many thanks for your continued co-operation with this.

Clubs

Please refer to a separate Key Stage One and Key Stage Two club letter which is coming home with your child(ren) today. The list of clubs on offer is on the back of each letter with spaces to apply for three clubs as usual. Please note you do not have to apply for Homework Club – children can simply stay for this and be collected accordingly. Please complete these over the weekend and hand letters back no later than Tuesday 8th January to enable us to provide at least one club for each child who applies. Clubs will commence on Monday 14th January and run weekly until the Easter Holidays. Many thanks to all our staff who give up their non-teaching time to ensure our children have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.



Mandarin Club – Opportunities to Sign up at Key Stage One

Let your child(ren) start the new year with a new language! We're happy to announce that a new after-school Mandarin club is opening at St James' in January, which will be fun for your children as well as preparing them for the future. Run by 'Speak Like A Native', this club will give your children the chance to participate in activities and games while learning Mandarin at the same time. There's no homework, no learning lists of words and no stress. The method reflects the natural way we all learn our first language and helps to build a child's confidence, preparing them for secondary school and life beyond. The Language Guides are experts in the language and the small groups mean everyone gets lots of attention. For more details (fees, dates etc) and to book please go to www.speaklikeanative.com/st-james-ce



Community Football Family Ticket Vouchers available

We're pleased to be able to give away some tickets to a local football match between Fisher and Bearsted for Saturday 12th January (3pm kick-off). Each family voucher entitles free admission for a group of two adults and up to four children. We have a number of vouchers at Alexis St. Please do pop in and collect one or speak to a member of office staff or Mr. Griffin and we'll send home vouchers with your child. This will take place on the above date at St. Paul's Stadium, Salter Road, Rotherhithe.



Speech and Language Specialist

As previously mentioned, we are really pleased that this year Sarah Gelli, Speech and Language Therapist, is working with us one day a fortnight to help support the communication skills of all children at St James' School. Sarah will be working across both sites so your child may see her around the school. She might observe your child's class, give advice to our school team about how to support communication in your child's class or watch communication enhancement groups run by a member of school staff. If there are specific concerns about your child's communication, then we may suggest that they are referred to Sarah's specialist caseload. We would discuss this with you and will not make a referral without your written consent. Sarah will not make any notes or hold any data about children who are not on her specialist caseload. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to raise these with your child's class teacher or with Mr Wood. If you think your child might benefit from a referral to Sarah's specialist Speech and Language Therapy caseload, please discuss this with their class teacher or Mr Wood.



