

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a super first week back! Children have returned to school calm, refreshed and eager to learn which is really super to see. There has been some terrific learning already and I'm so glad we've had such a positive start to the new academic year, happily accompanied by some sunshine and lovely, warm weather! We had a Church Service to welcome all children to school on Tuesday which explored the theme of new starts looking and the parable of the Prodigal Son. 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 & 6 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. ANPR cameras are in force, and you will receive a ticket if you enter during the restricted times. This is in place for the safety of all our children, and we thank you for your consideration.

PE Days

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

- Tuesdays – Years 3 & 4;
- Wednesdays – Years 1 & 2;
- 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. Please see the attached letter from Mr. Brenta and Miss Jess for further details.

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. Please also be reminded of the importance of punctuality – it's always better for everyone if the children are on time each day, ready to learn. Let's try to improve attendance in some cases too so children don't miss out on any vital learning or fun in school!

Geography Field Trips

All children from Years 1-6 will attend Geography field trips to Hampstead Heath as part of their Geography learning this half term. These will start next week as below:

- Tuesday 12th September: Belgium class;
- Wednesday 13th September: Year 1;
- Thursday 14th September: Year 2.

Children will travel to and from Hampstead Heath using public transport and will be provided with a packed lunch to take with them. Do ensure they are in on time on those days, have a bag to carry their packed lunch, a water bottle and a suitable jacket. They should all be back before the end of the school day for normal collection times. If you would like to join your children's class, please check with class teachers should they be able to accommodate extra adults.

Uniform

Thank you for sending children in with full school uniform and plain black shoes in most instances – most children look really smart and ready to learn. We do understand a lot of parents/carers are awaiting orders from our suppliers and completely understand if you are missing items for now. Plain clothes for PE are fine for now. Mrs Brenta will be offering help with good quality second-hand uniform very soon should you need any items. We'll let you know when this is up and running.

Household Items Available

If you are in need of some household items, and are able to collect locally, please do call Mrs Brenta (in confidence). One of our church members is moving and is kindly donating:

Fridge-freezer; microwave; dining room chairs and table; dressing table; desk; double bed; 3 small cabinets; corner telephone table

Call or e-mail Carolyn and she will give you further information and arrange for you to collect.

Communications

Thanks for your patience this week with a couple of technical glitches with SchoolsBuddy etc – these things are sent to try us and often beyond our control. Clubs will be available to sign up to soon using SchoolsBuddy as before. Remember to keep up to date with the weekly newsletter and to check the website and dates letters/calendars when available. Do follow us on Instagram: @st_jamesschool or reggioatst_jamesschool to see some of the action at both sites.

Lunch Menus

These can be found on the school website for both OJR and Alexis St:

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

We are on 'Week 2' of each menu next week.

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

God bless, from the St. James' team.