

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a really great first full week back to school and I'm so happy that children continue to be calm, settled and eager to learn and are fully immersed in their new topics. Our new children have all settled in really well too! This week, Belgium class and Years 1&2 all visited Hampstead Heath for their field trips as part of Geography learning. Next week, the remaining KS2 children will attend trips to Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest as below. This week's Collective Worship theme has been based around 'New Starts' and 'Firm Foundations' where we've thought about the parables of 'The Sower and the Seeds' and 'The Wise and Foolish Men'. Please find attached, as promised, an initial 'dates for your diaries' letter. Here are some important dates leading up to January including parents' evenings, open evenings, trips and events. This will be updated all the time and once we have firm dates for other events, they will appear too so you have plenty of time to attend anything.

PE Day Swap – NEXT WEEK ONLY

Next week, to accommodate pre-booked trips, can YEAR 3 wear PE kits on THURSDAY (21st Sept) and YEAR 6 wear PE kits on TUESDAY (19th Sept). This will be for one week only – back to normal the following week. Many thanks!

Geography Field Trips

Next week, our Geography field trips to Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest will continue as part of their Geography learning this half term. These will be on the following days:

- Tuesday 19th September: Year 3 to Hampstead Heath;
- Wednesday 20th September: Year 5 to Hampstead Heath and Year 6 to Epping Forest;
- Thursday 21st September: Year 4 to Hampstead Heath.

Children will travel to and from Hampstead Heath/Epping Forest 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, please check with class teachers should they be able to accommodate extra adults.

Photograph/Digital Consents

As this new academic year starts, we once again seek the renewal of your consent to celebrate your child's work and image on our social media feeds, such as Instagram, Twitter and the school's own website. Full details of what we are asking of you and why are on a form on our website here: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/form/?pid=74&form=32>.

Please click on the link, read through the page and then signal your consent or otherwise to the three statements at the bottom of that page, together with your name and date. Your preferences will be recorded and adhered to. You can change your mind if you need to by contacting the school office or re-completing the form at any time during the school year should your preferences or family arrangements change in the future, but it is important to us to know your wishes on this matter - thank you.

Mrs Brenta's Drop-In Sessions at Alexis St.

As we previously mentioned, Mrs. Brenta will have 'drop-in' sessions in the Alexis Street School House. This is the small building next to the playground at Alexis St. The large gate will be open so you can access without having to come through the main office and through school. She will be there from 09:00 - 10:45 and then from 13:00 – 15:00 next Wednesday, 20th September. All parents from Nursery, KS1 and KS2 are welcome! If you need directions, please just ask, it is 5 minutes from Old Jamaica Road. There will be pre-loved uniform (if you can afford a small donation towards any that would be appreciated), there will be tea and coffee, a listening ear, signposting to other services if you need assistance, and general help and information. This will be not be every Wednesday, you will need to check the newsletter every Friday. Mrs Brenta will be there Wednesday 20th September (as above) and Wednesday 27th September (from 09:00-15:00). On Wednesday 4th October, she will not be there as it is the 'Young Marketeers' Day at Borough Market (to which everyone is welcome to visit!).

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip – June 2024

I've e-mailed Year 6 parents and carers separately regarding securing a place and paying for the Residential trip to Marchant's Hill, Surrey next June. Please find the letter attached again as a reminder and make that first payment of £25.00 by 29th September to secure your place via the SchoolsBuddy App. Do speak to Mrs Fox for any assistance with this.

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 STILL understand a lot of parents/carers are awaiting orders from our suppliers and completely understand if you are missing items for now – happily they are coming in to school slowly but surely. Plain clothes for PE are fine for now.

Clubs

As promised, clubs will soon be up and running for children from Years 1-6 to book into; we're just thinking about what we can best offer and on which days. These will be booked through our SchoolsBuddy App, will be first-come, first-served and limited places will be available. Do ensure you have this App and familiarise yourselves with it so you are ready to book these and also book slots for parents' evenings in Autumn 2.

Next Week

In addition to our Geography field trips, classes will be returning for book-swapping and story-telling sessions to the Blue Anchor Library next week. 3 Norway will attend on Monday; 6 Brazil will attend on Tuesday and 2 Spain will attend on Friday.

Please also find attachments for local sports and football opportunities should these be of interest! Do follow us on Instagram: [@st_jamesschool](https://www.instagram.com/st_jamesschool) or [@reggioatst_jamesschool](https://www.instagram.com/reggioatst_jamesschool) to see some of the action at both sites!

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

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