

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy and productive week in school with more super learning and achievements in every year group. There has been some particularly lovely Design & Technology learning from children this week. Year 3 had a lovely poetry and creative writing workshop yesterday; the whole school are celebrating National Poetry Day this afternoon with performances; Mrs Brenta and our Year 4 Young Marketeers did a super job trading our fresh produce at Borough Market on Wednesday; 4 Ghana, 5 India and 1 Italy have all had library visits this week; we had a lovely Nursery story-telling morning on Tuesday – many thanks to parents and carers who attended this – and Year 4, 5 & 6 ladies have all attended Football, Dance and Capoeira workshops respectively. There are lots more sports activities coming up for children during the Autumn term too!

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been focused around 'Getting Ready for Harvest' and giving thanks for all we have. We have also looked at Creation and 'God's Wonderful World' to truly appreciate the world around us. Many thanks to our whole school community for your kind contributions for the Manna Centre given during this morning's Harvest Service.

Year 1 Phonics Parent/Carer Workshop – Wednesday 11th October, 14:30, Old Jamaica Road

Miss Hibberd is holding a Phonics workshop in the Old Jamaica Road Hall on Wednesday afternoon at 14:30. Lots of Year 1 parents and carers are really enthused by, and engaged with, reading at home with our children and this will be a great opportunity to attend and see how we teach Phonics/how you could support with early reading at home. We're looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Reception 2024-2025 Open Mornings – Wednesdays at 10:00, Old Jamaica Road

Another reminder that we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2024. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Wednesday 11th October, Old Jamaica Road at 10:00;
- Wednesday 18th October, Old Jamaica Road at 10:00;
- Wednesday 1st November, Old Jamaica Road at 10:00;
- Wednesday 8th November, Old Jamaica Road at 10:00.

Run, Canada Water, Run! Event – Southwark Park Athletics Track, Sunday 15th October

Another reminder that we're taking part in an event in Southwark Park on Sunday 15th October (afternoon) where we will receive a grant for school funds and projects and also raise money for our school. Please see the flier attached – it would be great if a large number of our children and parents joined us and supported us for this. As well as promoting health and fitness with a 2km run, this will be a super opportunity to come together and raise funds for vital school trips and projects.

To register, you can follow the QR code on the attached flier or follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/4JdN2QS5hBjbGysr9>

If you join and your child is in Nursery or Reception, a parent/carer will need to run with them. From Years 1-6, you are welcome to spectate and children run the course on their own. Members of school staff will also be in attendance and we hope to see many of you there! Years 5&6 have a special assembly on Monday promoting this where athlete Grace Prendergast will come and encourage participation in this run along with the organisers.

To sponsor/donate/add a message of support please follow the link to our JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stjames-school?utm_term=gZw2zAyV4

MANY THANKS if you are able to support!

'A Celebration of Soul and Song' – Wednesday 18th October, 17:00 in St. James's Church

Miss Jess is delighted to present 'A Celebration of Soul & Song' where children in years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will perform a showcase of their Autumn Performing Arts learning. This will be held in St. James's Church at 17:00. Entry fee will be £2.00 towards the school fund. It'd be lovely to have all/as many children performing as possible and of course have a large audience to cheer the children on!

Parent courses

If you are interested in doing a course (with Southwark Adult Education, however held here at Alexis St), please can you let Mrs. Brenta know. We can offer:

- Caring for children (Beginners, who may want to get into childminding/TA roles in the future) and/or
- Literacy for childcare (Beginners, if you are a childminder, or just as a parent).

Please email her cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk or call her at school.

Reception – Year 6 Flu Immunisations in School

As you'll have seen from our 'dates' letter, all children are due to have their annual flu nasal immunisation dose in school on (or around in the case of Year 6 as they're on a trip) Tuesday 7th November. This is optional, however recommended. If you want your child/ren to have this immunisation in school, simply follow the link from the QR code on the attachment to provide consent for this. The nurses will not give the immunisation to children whose parents have not given their consent. You need to give consent for each child.

Free October Half Term Cycle Training for Children in Southwark

Southwark Council is providing free cycle training courses to all children who live or go to school in the borough during the OCTOBER HALF TERM. Location is Burgess Park. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow at Burgess 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. Please also see the flier attached for further details. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident website: <http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/>

Holiday Free School Meals Vouchers – October Half Term

Happily, the system will remain the same for our parents who are currently in receipt/have been receiving holiday vouchers. If you are new to school, please read the letter attached outlining details of the Southwark Council system and details we need from you in order to check your child/ren's eligibility.

Year 6 – PGL Residential Trip in June 2024

A reminder that today was the initial deadline for your deposits/interest in our residential trip for Year 6. Do either pay the deposit/initial payment via SchoolsBuddy or let us know on the phone or via e-mail if you will definitely commit to this and wish for your child to attend. We need to have provisional numbers in advance and can't promise a space after a certain point.

Next Week

Children in 3 Sweden, 6 Brazil and 1 Germany will be attending the Blue Anchor Library for story-telling and book-swapping; we have our Year 1 Phonics workshop for parents and carers on Wednesday at OJR as detailed above; Reception 2024 tours will commence on Wednesday at OJR – also as above.

Do keep checking that 'dates for your diaries letter' which is regularly updated with important dates, trips and events. We have now secured dates for the Church and our Christmas nativities and concerts – do save these dates! As always, a reminder to 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 really lovely weekend ☺

God bless, from the St. James' team.