

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had the most amazing first half term of the academic year and we are so proud of all our children's celebrations and achievements. Highlights of this week include our soul concert and sponsored run in Southwark Park as detailed below. Children's learning has been focused on RE – both Christianity and other major world faiths – as well as Black History Month where we have looked at some inspirational figures from history. Our Collective Worship theme this week has continued to be focused around the Parables of Jesus and the messages we can all take from these.

Run, Canada Water, Run! Event

A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to all children who participated on Sunday 15th October for our run. We are so grateful to our school community for such generous support with sponsorship, in addition to 'Art Invest' and 'Bohill' – our corporate sponsors – who are giving our school £5,000 in funding to help with our outside gardens and learning environments. We have managed to raise an incredible £1,778 of our £2,000 target meaning we have raised **£6,778** in total for our future projects! We are deeply touched by, and really appreciate, such enthusiasm and support.

'A Celebration of Soul and Song'

Key Stage Two's soul concert on Wednesday was super! The children displayed such talent and joy and it was a lovely way to mark our Black History Month learning as well as bring our school community together for an evening of great entertainment. Many thanks to Miss Jess for suggesting this and putting the concert together! Thank you again for your kind donations for this – we took **£364.86** in ticket sales/contributions which will help with our school fund and enable us to continue to provide those lovely trips and enrichment opportunities in school which are vital for the children.

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. Many thanks to those of you who attended this week and last. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

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

Photography Consents

As we approach our very busy Autumn Term 2, which includes our many seasonal events, we note that there are still many outstanding Parental Consents for web publication of work and images of your child. St James' take the privacy of you and your family seriously however the feedback we receive from our families is that they enjoy celebrating their child's work and achievements and we love to be able to include as many as possible on our website and Instagram feed. Thank you to all of you who have already taken the time to advise of your preferences. If you have not done so, please click the link below and fill in the form provided. Many thanks. <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/form/?pid=74&form=32>

Homework/Apps/Devices

Those of you who were recipients of ex-school iPads last year may now be experiencing some difficulties logging on to Mathletics and Spelling Shed. This is because both of these services have been updated and require a newer operating system than is held on your iPad.

- The Mathletics app now requires iOS 14.0 or newer to run and does not appear to run through the browser, Safari;
- Our Spelling Shed subscription was always meant to run through the browser Safari, not the app, but this is also failing to connect at the moment.

Tests in school have found some success with downloading the 'Google Chrome' app and running both of the above through that browser. It may be that your iOS does not support Chrome either but if you do manage to install it successfully, we believe it will work. I'm sorry that as updates are made, hardware inevitably gets left behind. If you do not have a device that will access homework, such as a mobile phone, home computer, etc - please let school know so that we can help your child to access their work in another way. Unfortunately, that does not include offering alternative devices for home as we no longer have any viable spare devices to share with you.

Family Lives Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-oct23?e=82d627eec2>

Mudchute Farm Half Term Activities

Follow this link for further details of events at Mudchute Farm over half term:

<https://www.mudchute.org/news>

Remember – we break up for Autumn half term this afternoon at the normal school times. We'll see everyone back to school following this on Monday 30th October, again, at the normal school times, for Autumn term 2!

Do keep checking that 'dates for your diaries letter' which is regularly updated with important dates, trips and events – more have been added recently. A reminder to follow us on Instagram:

[@st_jamesschool](#) or [@reggioatst_jamesschool](#) to see some of the action at both sites!

Events After Half Term

Monday 30th Oct: Back to school; 3 SWEDEN PE DAY SWAP FOR THIS WEEK ONLY;

Tuesday 31st Oct: Year 3 and Year 5 Japan History trips;

Wednesday 1st Nov: Reception '24 tours; Year 5 India History trip; KS1 Multi-skills; Year 6 Scholars event;

Friday 3rd Nov: 'Wear blue' non-uniform day for contributions to charity; 3 NORWAY PE DAY SWAP FOR THIS WEEK ONLY.

Wishing you, the children and our whole school community a restful, happy and safe half term break ☺

God bless, from the St. James' team.