

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy week – lots of lovely RE learning around Christmas and its' true meaning as well as a Year 1 trip to Dockhead Fire Station as part of their 'keeping safe' learning; Year 4 Cycle Confident sessions, our usual library visits and Recorder and violin sessions. Rehearsals for our imminent Christmas concerts and nativities are going really well and we can't wait for you to join us for these – details and dates below.

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been focused around Advent and the birth of Jesus and John the Baptist foretold.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A paper letter will be coming home with children advertising a current vacancy for a parent Governor to join our Full Governing Board. We have to provide a paper copy, however I have also attached the letter to this e-mail for your information. Please e-mail either headteacher@st-james.southwark.sch.uk or governorclerk@st-james.southwark.sch.uk. This vacancy has arisen as a long-serving Parent Governor has stepped down from his role due to work and family commitments. Pete King – who many of you will know – has served our school as a parent governor for eight years and offered us invaluable guidance and support on many issues – mainly regarding buildings and maintenance. We sincerely thank him for his tenure and service. He still has two children attending St. James' so are glad that he will remain a friend for some years to come!

Clubs

Another reminder not to forget that this Monday (4th December) was our LAST DAY OF CLUBS for the Autumn term (excluding wraparound care). There will be an opportunity to sign up for clubs again in the Spring term – do look out for these on newsletters and then sign up for these on SchoolsBuddy when ready.

Nursery Christmas Songs – Tuesday 12th December, 14:00, OJR Hall

Parents and carers of Nursery children – please join us at 14:00 on Tuesday in the OJR Hall for a Christmas sing song. Nursery children are performing with such confidence and we're so looking forward to you joining us for this.

Reception Nativity and Christmas Songs – Thursday 14th December, 14:00, OJR Hall

Parents and carers of Reception children – please join us at 14:00 on Thursday in the OJR Hall for a Christmas production. Reception children are doing so well with this, do come and cheer them along.

Christmas Jumper/Festive Non-Uniform Day – Friday 15th December

Next week (Friday) will be a Christmas Jumper/festive non-uniform day. This is just due to popular demand and we're not asking for any contributions for charities/school fund for this. I'll let you know how much we've collectively raised for all our causes in next week's newsletter. Thanks, as always, for your generous support and kindness.

ESOL for Parents/Carers

If you would be interested in attending ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) please let Mrs. Brenta know as she hopes to have a course starting in January 2024. Please email her cbrenta.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

Reception 2024 Applications

Another reminder that if you have children born between 01.09.2019 and 31.08.2020, remember to apply on line for Reception 2024. You can find further information here:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-admissions/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>

If you would like any assistance, please see Mrs. Brenta who will be happy to help.

Design the Front Cover Competition - London Children's Flower Society

Please see attached details of a colouring competition for children to take part in over the Christmas break. As we do not return until 8th January, please post your entries straight to the organiser, or scan and email direct to them.

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you have any pre-loved uniform Mrs. Brenta would be happy add it to our shop, please ensure it is clean and in good condition. If you are in need of any uniform do see Mrs. Brenta, or pop along on a Wednesday morning to Alexis Street house (entrance via the gate next to the back playground).

Southwark's Winter of Food and Fun

Please see attached flier should you be looking for activities or child care during the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Events/Next Week

Monday 11th December: 4 Ghana visiting the library.

Tuesday 12th December: Nursery Christmas Songs in the Old Jamaica Road Hall at 14:00. All welcome; Year 6 Athletics finals; 4 Kenya visiting the library.

Wednesday 13th December: Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 watching a production of 'Peter Pan & Captain Cook' by Booster Cushion Theatre in the OJR Hall during afternoon; Year 6 Scholar's Programme tutorials; Christmas lunch served to all children at both sites.

Thursday 14th December: Reception Nativity and Christmas Songs in the Old Jamaica Road Hall at 14:00. All welcome to attend.

Friday 15th December: Christmas Jumper/festive non-uniform day. No donations.

Monday 18th December: Year 1&2 Nativity in St. James's Church – 14:00. All welcome.

Tuesday 19th December: Year 3-6 Carol Concert in St. James's Church – 14:00. All welcome.

Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Service in St. James's Church at 09:30. All welcome; Break up for Christmas Holidays. HALF DAY – 13:15 Old Jamaica Road/13:30 Alexis St. **Please note there is no after-school club provision on the final day of term.**

Wishing you, your families, and our whole community a super weekend.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.