

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another very busy, very festive week! It's great to see children in their Christmas jumpers/festive non-uniform outfits today; all children enjoyed a Christmas lunch on Wednesday; Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 were all enthused by a production from Booster Cushion Theatre on Wednesday; Year 3 children had road awareness 'keeping safe' workshops on Tuesday; Years 1 & 2 continued to have their Cricket sessions Year 5 girls had their football sessions and violin, recorder, PE and Performing Arts lessons continue as usual. The highlights of the week came from Nursery and Reception who performed with gusto in their Christmas performances – very well done to the children and staff for these. I'm so looking forward to Years 1-6 performing in church on Monday and Tuesday next week! Our Collective Worship theme has been based around Christmas and its' true meaning this week – there have been some amazing responses and reflections from all.

Autumn Term Fundraising

A HUGE THANK YOU for all your generous support this term. Please see the amounts we've raised for both our school fund maintenance grant contributions and also some of our favourite charities and causes. This really highlights how wonderful our community is:

- Evelina and King's College Diabetes support: £500.42;
- Run, Kids, Run Sponsored event: £1,778 (plus a £5,000 donation from Art Invest);
- Ticket sales for our KS2 Soul Concert: £364.86;
- Children in Need day (plus bake sale): £387.59;
- Sponsorship for KS2 HIIT Workouts: £1306.65;
- School Fund non-uniform days: £468.51;
- Royal Marsden Crazy Hair day: £171.11.

Year 1 & 2 Nativity – Monday 18th December at 14:00

Join us in church at 14:00 on Monday to see Years 1 & 2 perform in their Nativity. Parents, carers and guests can often sit downstairs in church for this due to fewer children performing. We look forward to this and seeing many of you there!

Years 3-6 Carol Concert – Tuesday 19th December at 14:00

Join us in church at 14:00 on Tuesday to see Years 3-6 perform in their Carol concert. Parents, carers and guests are asked to sit upstairs for this as the children need the ground floor seats. Only those with mobility needs can sit to the rear of the ground floor. Again, we look forward to seeing you there for this too!

Parent Governor Vacancy

A few parents have already expressed their interest regarding this post. I have also attached the letter again to this e-mail for your information. Please e-mail either headteacher@st-james.southwark.sch.uk or governorclerk@st-james.southwark.sch.uk. Please note the closing date for applications will be Friday 19th January so there is plenty of time for us to liaise should you wish to know more about what the role of a Governor entails. Should there be several candidates, we will have to arrange a ballot for parents to select their preferred Parent Governor.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-dec23?e=82d627eec2>

Term Dates 2024-2025

Southwark Council haven't yet published their term dates on their own website, however we've chased them and have been given an outline. These come fairly late but we always like to be in line with Southwark's dates because of siblings in secondary schools etc. Please find them attached and also on our website soon.

Christmas Holidays

We break up next Wednesday – **20th December at 13:15 (Old Jamaica Road) and 13:30 (Alexis St).** Please note the half day! There will be no JAG or OJR after school club provision on the final day of term. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 8th January at the normal school times.

Free School Meals Vouchers for the Christmas Holidays

These should come directly to parents of children who are eligible as they did in October. Do check junk e-mail inboxes etc! They may not arrive before Friday 22nd December.

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 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.**

January Dates

Monday 8th January: Back to school for Spring term 1 at normal school times. 08:55 Alexis St/09:15 OJR; New Year service in St. James's Church at 09:30. All welcome to attend.

Tuesday 9th January: Year 5 'GeoBus' Arctic explorer workshop as part of their Geography topic learning.

Thursday 11th January: Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2 Drama workshops all day at OJR from visiting practitioners from Drama4Schools.

More dates will come for the rest of the year in the Spring term. Keep looking out for these!

Wishing you, your families, and our whole community a lovely final weekend of the Autumn term ☺

God bless,

from the St. James' team.