

Dear Parents & Carers,

A happy new year to you all! It's great to see the children back after our Christmas break and hear all about what our families have been doing with their time together. We've had a really lovely, calm, focused first week of the Spring term and children from Nursery – Year 6 have based their learning around the book 'Flooded' by Mariajo Ilustrajo. We were welcomed back with an Epiphany service on Monday morning and we've been looking at our school vision and character traits this week, thinking all about new starts and new years' resolutions.

This term is always a quieter one – we can really knuckle down and focus on our learning post December assessments! Nevertheless, Recorder, Violin and Performing Arts lessons all continue and there are some lovely trips and workshop opportunities coming up too. 2 France ventured to Pizza Express in Shad Thames this week and had a great time as chefs for the day! 2 Spain will attend soon too. All Nursery Rome, Reception, Year 1 & 2 children have all taken part in some super Drama workshops this week as well.

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip – June 2024

We only have approx. 25 year 6 children whose parents/carers have signed up for our residential trip in June. While this number is unusually low, the children will still have a lovely time – and probably have even more time to complete all the exciting activities! This is a very last appeal to you to express interest/sign up for this trip. Our initial predictions of numbers will mean that we as a school will have to lose some money on our deposit, however the trip will still be the same price of £250.00 for parents. Do speak to Mrs Fox for any assistance with this, or if you can commit to the payments.

Read With Your Child Morning – Thursday 18th January, 09:30

Aimed mainly at Key Stage One/EYFS parents and carers, Miss Boyd is warmly inviting you to a Reading morning at OJR next Thursday, from 09:30. Do join us for some tips on how to read for pleasure, understanding, and also sounding out words and sounds in their reading. If you have any questions, please do bring them along with you! We're looking forward to seeing you all then!

Parent Governor Vacancy

Another reminder that we have a vacancy for a parent Governor. As mentioned previously, 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 next Friday - 19th January so there is still 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.

Nursery and Reception Balance Bike Training

Nursery and Reception children whose parents/carers have returned permission forms will complete their balance bike training next week in the playground at OJR. You do not need to bring in or do anything for this – just make sure they have warm/waterproof coats as they'll be outside.

Parent Gym

Great news! Parent Gym is back; save the date Thursday 25th January at 09:30 where you are all invited to attend a Taster Session at OJR where you can hear all about this fantastic parenting course. It is NOT a keep fit class - it is an interactive, fun, parenting course where you can share tips with other parents to help you raise happy, confident children. See Mrs. Brenta for further details, or follow this link for more information:

https://youtu.be/_Ua0U2EWByghttps://themindgym.app.box.com/file/1201396582789?s=i5w1v31w02c1hu35u4a83t7iewt24ygi

We have been running Parent Gym here in school since 2013 and all parents/carers/grandparents who have attended have given excellent feedback. Do come along to Old Jamaica Road on the above date and time. Please sign up via this link for the taster session (and of course the following 6 week course if you are interested):

<https://parentgym.arlo.co/courses/10-parent-gym?e=e97e28520eee47c5aa480245be5f0e81>

Events Next Week

Nursery and Reception Balance Bike training each day at OJR as detailed above.

Monday 15th January

3 Sweden trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping.

Tuesday 16th January

School nursing team height and weight checks for Reception and Year 6 children;

6 Canada trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping.

Wednesday 17th January

Parents' English course continues at Alexis St.

Thursday 18th January

'Read with your child' parents' morning at OJR from 09:30 as detailed above.

Friday 19th January

Violin lessons continue at Key Stage Two; 2 France trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping.

More dates will come in the form of the 'dates for your diaries' letter when we've secured more bookings etc very soon.

Wishing you, your families, and our whole community a lovely weekend ☺

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