

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a really good week – lots of focus and hard work and some excellent Science learning across both key stages. Library visits have continued; PE, Performing Arts and recorder & violin lessons are all going really well too. The school nursing team visited to do their height and weight checks of Year 6 and Reception children and Miss Boyd led a 'Reading with your child' morning at OJR yesterday too; many thanks to all who attended this. Reception and Nursery children have had a great time with our Cycle Confident instructors with their Balance Bike training in the OJR playground this week as well.

Our Collective Worship theme has begun to focus on some Old Testament stories and people and this week and next we are thinking all about Abraham. As always, we are getting so many brilliant responses to our worship themes and children are doing a super job at linking messages from the Bible to our lives today.

PE Kits/Gymnastics

This half term, all children in years 1-6 are taking part in Gymnastics lessons with Mr. Brenta. Please ensure on these days that girls do not wear tights under their PE kits as bare feet are required for Gymnastics. This is because otherwise, children could slip and be unsafe. If there is a reason why children cannot have bare feet, please do let us know. Otherwise, we'll expect children to be able to do their gym lessons with bare feet as required.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Today is the deadline for any parent to apply to be one of our parent Governors as advertised previously. We currently have three parents who have applied so there will have to be a ballot/vote which we'll write to you about next week.

Parent Gym

If you are interested in this course as previously advertised, next Thursday (25th January at 09:30) you are all invited to attend a Taster Session at OJR where you can hear all about this 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>

Family Lives Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-jan24?e=82d627eec2>

Worrying About Money leaflet 2023-2024.

The Worrying About Money Leaflet, created by the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), details the support available for residents within Southwark for those who are in need: <https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/southwark>

FREE Half Term Cycling Courses

See attached leaflet for FREE cycle confident courses in Southwark this half term.

Events Next Week

Monday 22nd January

5 Japan trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping; clubs start for the Spring term.

Tuesday 23rd January

5 India trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping.

Wednesday 24th January

Reception children will take part in a 'Teddy Bear's Hospital' workshop delivered by King's College Hospital; Parents' English course continues at Alexis St.

Thursday 25th January

Parent Gym taster morning at OJR from 09:30 as detailed above.

Friday 26th 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 (pleasew find attached) and more will continue to be added to this when we've secured more bookings etc very soon.

Wishing you, your families, and our whole community a super (hopefully warmer!) weekend ☺

God bless,

from the St. James' team.