

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week children have amazed us with their skills and enthusiasm in both French and Relationship & Health Education (RHE). Do ask them all about everything they are learning in school!

Year 1 had a terrific 'Teddy Bear Hospital' workshop on Wednesday delivered by practitioners from King's College Hospital; 3 Norway, 2 Spain and Reception have all attended the library for story-telling and book swapping and Years 2 & 5 are participating in really interesting safety workshops delivered by the London Fire Brigade in school today.

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on some Old Testament stories and people - this week with Jacob. Next term we'll continue to learn all about the Old Testament and the connections and lessons we can learn from the Bible before Jesus came.

Parent Governor Ballot

A letter and ballot paper will be coming home to you today with the children (and also attached for your information too). We have three AMAZING candidates who have all expressed a desire to join our Full Governing Board – do read their biographies carefully and select who you would like to join us in representing you. As per the letter, send in ballot papers by next Wednesday – 7th February. ALL parents and carers can vote, not just a vote per household. To avoid duplicates, we ask that you write YOUR full name on each paper. We will announce who is to be appointed when we have counted the papers.

Internet Safety

Another reminder that each February there is additional focus on online safety for families in the form of Safer Internet Day. This year the theme is "Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online". Our school website's [Safeguarding section](#) includes year-round links to some of the many specialist sites offering support and advice. Meanwhile, our page dedicated to [Internet Safety Day 2024](#) shares some of the best of this year's resources, from sources we recognise and trust, which includes advice for families to help safely navigate the wonders of the internet, whilst minimising exposure to harmful content. We hope you take some time to visit and enjoy the signposts we have included on this page. A leaflet published by the NSPCC regarding internet use will have either been sent home, or will be coming to you soon.

Safer Internet Practice at Home

It's always prudent to have a timely reminder to check and monitor anything children might be doing online at home at any age. Happily, we haven't heard of any social media incidents for a long time from our older children – this suggests you are indeed monitoring and preventing children from being exposed to any potential harm or unpleasantness which we celebrate completely. The internet is a wonderful tool, but one we always need to be aware of can be harmful to children. We thank you for ensuring the children are safe at all times; especially during holidays and breaks from school.

FREE Half Term Cycling Courses

Again, see the attached leaflet for FREE cycle confident courses in Southwark this half term.

School Uniform

A reminder regarding school uniform – our sincere thanks for ensuring children attend school looking smart in full school uniform and PE kits. I know Mrs Brenta has been tirelessly helping many people with 'nearly new' uniform or with a small quantity of PE kit items we have. Unfortunately, lots of coloured/not PLAIN black trainers are creeping into school again. Do be reminded we ask for plain black footwear for school. On PE days, any colour of appropriate trainers/plimsolls can be worn. Half term would be a great time to look at this and procure some smart new school shoes. Do let us know if you are struggling or might need help with any uniform items. As always, we appeal to you to clearly name all uniform/coats to avoid losses and mix-ups!

Personal Items/Money in School

Another reminder not to send children into school with toys/personal items/money. We cannot accept responsibility over any losses and don't have the capacity to check children's bags every day! Older children whose parents want them to have a mobile phone for travelling purposes, these are always handed in to teachers and looked after until the end of the school day. Otherwise, there should be no other items apart from any books/homework/reading journals and water bottles, apart from anything agreed with a senior member of staff for a specific reason. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Events Next Week

Monday 5th February

4 Ghana trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping; clubs continue for the Spring term.

Tuesday 6th February

6 Brazil trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping; selected children in Year 4 taking part in a local Athletics competition with the London PE network.

Wednesday 7th February

Recorder lessons continue at Key Stage One; Dental/Oral Hygiene talks and workshops with children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 4 & 6.

Thursday 8th February

Parent Gym course continues; 2 Spain visiting Pizza Express at Shad Thames for Pizza Making workshops.

Friday 9th February

Violin lessons continue at Key Stage Two; Belgium trip to the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping; **Break up for Spring half term at normal school times. 15:15 Old Jamaica Road/15:30 Alexis St.**

More dates added and will continue to come in the form of the 'dates for your diaries' letter (please find attached) and more will continue to be added to this as we secure more bookings etc.

Wishing you, your families, and our whole community a lovely final weekend before Spring half term!

God bless, from the St. James' team.