

Dear Parents & Carers,

We come to the end of Spring term 1 and children have been amazing us with their Religious Education knowledge and engagement this week! Year 2 Spain had a terrific trip to Pizza Express yesterday; KS1, Years 4 & 6 had Oral Hygiene talks and have been given tooth care kits; some Year 4 Athletes performed brilliantly an athletics tournament on Tuesday, competing against ten Southwark schools and bringing home a trophy for achieving a 1st place win (!) and 4 Ghana, 6 Brazil and Belgium class have all attended the library for story-telling and book swapping. Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on some Old Testament stories and people - this week with Joseph. We'll continue to learn about Joseph after half term.

New Parent Governor

Thank you for your interest and engagement selecting our new parent governor. It was a VERY close contest with the ballot papers, however we're very pleased to welcome Sherine Grey-Davidson (mother of Judah in Year 2) to our full governing board. We look forward to working with you and welcoming you to your first meeting(s) very soon. We were so lucky to have 3 very suitable candidates and such great engagement with this process.

Key Stage Two - Lost Property

Mrs. Brenta went through all the lost property at KS2 and handed out named items to children, of which there were 6 items with names in, and 34 without! The 34 cardigans/sweatshirts are now in the school 'pre-loved' store. If you are missing anything, you are most welcome to pop in on a Wednesday morning to claim it! Please also feel free to come along to Alexis St house any Wednesday morning to see what uniform we have, and there are cardigans/ sweatshirts/ trousers/skirts/shirts etc. We would be delighted to have a small donation for school funds, if you are able. There is also a small amount of new PE kit, which is charged at cost.

STEM Week – 11th – 15th March 2024

We're really excited about all the exciting events and learning opportunities next half term! One is STEM week - 11th – 15th March. To celebrate science, technology, engineering and maths, Miss Rozier has organised for a poster competition for KS1 children and a project to be displayed in our STEM Fair for KS2 children. Please see the attachments regarding this, noting different key stages/age groups. Last year we had terrific responses to this; half term would be a lovely opportunity to create something for this with the children.

Level 1 Childcare Course (Southwark Adult Education)

If you are interested in joining this course for parents, you would be very welcome to start after half term. It takes place at Alexis St, every Wednesday morning, 10am - 2.30pm. It is for 11 weeks, and at the end there will be an assessment and certificate. Please see Mrs. Brenta for further details.

Reception Vision Testing

Reception children are due to have vision tested in school delivered by the NHS on 20th March. Please find attached an 'opt-out' form should you wish for your child not to have their vision checked.

Flu Immunisation Catch-Up Sessions

If you would like your child to have their flu immunisation/if they missed it in school, please find an attachment detailing local offers from the NHS.

Online Homework Opportunities

A reminder that we have a number of online subscriptions which the children are able to access at home. These contain game formats covering lots of interesting topics. We try to streamline the children's logons to make it as straightforward as possible for them to logon. We are happy that the logons for both products, accessed through your browser, are now identical to your child's 'Microsoft365/Teams' logon and password. If you need a reminder of these, we will be reissuing logon emails very shortly.

Login to Busy Things:

<https://www.busthings.co.uk/lgfl-login/>

Click the 'Sign in with Microsoft' box.



Login to J2e:

<https://www.j2e.com/>.

Click the Microsoft 'Sign in' box.



We hope the children will enjoy investigating these resources. We remind you of the importance of supervising your family use of internet devices and thank you for ensuring the children are safe at all times; especially during holidays and breaks from school. A useful flyer of 'DigiSafe's 6 Top Tips of Internet Use' is attached.

Sporting Success

As well as our Year 4 Athletes winning their competition (mentioned earlier) this week, our senior footballers were victorious in their most recent game against Albion too, beating them by 8-1! Very well done to all our sports men and women for such success! A match report is attached from Mr. Brenta detailing this recent game.

School Day Timings – September 2024

I'm writing with plenty of warning to inform you of some tweaks we have to make to our school day timings next academic year. As you know, we have to stagger to ensure siblings can be on time between sites etc. Because our younger children start later and finish earlier, I will have to action a change to ensure one site starts and finishes earlier, and the other starts and finishes later. From September, it will be statutory for all primary school children to be in school for 32.5 hours per week. The most obvious thing to happen would be to have OJR start and finish earlier (Early Years and KS1 get the most tired in the afternoon) and have Alexis St start later and finish later. Do feel free to give any feedback on this change – I'd really welcome your views or preferences. Please see the following document outlining why this change is necessary:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2f21fbb13dc000cb2e5e1/Minimum_School_Week_Non-Statutory_Guidance.pdf

Note, this is non-statutory guidance NOW, however will need to be in place for September 2024.

Homework

Homework is often something that divides parents and carers! Some like lots of homework, some don't believe their children should be doing it at all. This is why we keep it pretty basic – expectations of Mathematics/Spelling Shed online – lots of optional activities as reminded above – and creative projects/encouraging to read and share books at home. It's been a while since we sought views on this subject so I'd really appreciate a few minutes of your time should you wish to tell us what you think. If you have lots of opinions which we should respond to, please do include your/your child's name in the final comment box as these surveys are anonymous. To do so, please follow this link to a fairly short survey to give us your views. Many thanks!

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SXG4JL/>

Events After Half Term

Monday 19th February

First day of Spring term 2 – back to school at the usual school times.
Clubs continue for the Spring term.

Wednesday 21st February

Parents' Literacy course continues at Alexis St.
KS1 Recorder lessons.

Thursday 22nd February

Parent Gym course continues at Alexis St with Mrs Brenta.
Reception, Years 1&2 to Royal Festival Hall to see a Bright Sparks music concert.

Friday 23rd February

KS2 Violin lessons.

PLEASE NOTE – ALL CHILDREN'S PE DAYS REMAIN THE SAME NEXT HALF TERM APART FROM RECEPTION. Please send children in wearing PE kits on these days:

Tuesdays: Reception and Years 3 & 4;

Wednesdays: Years 1 & 2;

Thursdays: Years 5 & 6.

Children in Belgium class should still wear PE kits on their YEAR GROUP'S days above.

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 happy, healthy and safe half term!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.