

Dear Parents & Carers,

We come to the end of a busy and productive week where children have managed to remain cheerful despite such wet weather and wet playtimes! Years 3&4 children in Belgium class and 5 India have all continued with their Swimming lessons at Downside Fisher for this half term; Year 3 and Year 6 children attended the British Museum on Wednesday for their Ancient Rome and Benin Kingdom History topics respectively; our Year 6 Scholar's Programme children graduated from Goldsmith's University with a special event on Tuesday; Reception enjoyed their Teddy Bear Hospital re-scheduled workshop on Wednesday and all children at Key Stage Two are taking part in Tennis coaching sessions today at Alexis St. Violin and Recorder lessons continue for all children; our Monday after school clubs continue for the Spring term and children's learning continues to impress! More trips and events are coming with what will be a very busy half term – see dates and information below and keep checking the attached dates letter as usual. Our Collective Worship theme continues to focus on the Old Testament, next week focusing upon Moses.

World Book Day – Friday 8th March

This year we're marking World Book Day next Friday - 8th March. We're delighted to be welcoming Clara Vulliamy into school to deliver Author/Illustrator assemblies to all children during the morning. Do start getting those costumes ready – we love to see all children dressed as their favourite literary characters. No need to buy anything; we encourage creativity and imagination for this! 5 India will still attend swimming next Friday – do be mindful of a fairly easy change for them and no hair sprays/face paints if possible!

Alexis St Roads/Thames Water Works

Our continued thanks for being patient while Thames Water work around Alexis St – do be reminded to be vigilant with children, particularly younger ones, as access is still required for residents who do not always drive as slowly as they could. We continue to monitor the corner when we are opening gates etc. A reminder of the continuing plan until April:

- START of school day: Children to come in through the playground gates as normal;
- END of school day: Years 5&6 to leave through usual playground gates; Years 3&4 to leave through additional gate at front of building; Belgium class to leave via the office;
- For Monday clubs, all children will leave at 16:30 via the office/main entrance too.

Sadly, it's been brought to our attention by local residents that similar work will commence soon on Mack's Road, perhaps making access even trickier. This will mean that parking will be completely out of action on both Linsey St and Mack's Road until May potentially. Thankfully however, roads should remain even quieter so safety won't be compromised.

STEM Week – 11th – 15th March 2024

We're really excited about all the exciting events and learning opportunities this 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; hopefully you find the opportunity to create something for this with the children.

Wassail Event in The Blue

Please see attached poster regarding a fun family event on Saturday 9th March locally, involving the Orchard behind Alexis St.

Old Jamaica Road Parking

We are very proud that we hold a 'Gold' TfL award for sustainable travel. As a school we have worked hard to maintain this over the last few years, and have regular road safety initiatives for all our children encouraging them to walk, bike or scoot to school. Our recent 'Hands Up' survey from all our children indicates that the majority of them wish to walk, bike or scoot, even if some come by car. We have parking for bikes and scooters at both sites, and of course Alexis Street is a 'School Street' with no access (except for residents) during drop off and pick up times. There is a camera there and it does work! Please be aware that there is also a camera at Old Jamaica Road site, which will record you should you park outside the gate, and you may get a fine. The camera is there primarily for your children's safety. We have noticed lately that a number of parents and carers are parking on the yellow zig zags to drop children at school. This is a No Parking area, so children can safely cross the road to school. Please do find an alternative place to stop and park, even if you have to walk a little further to drop your children off.

Events Next Week

Monday 4th March

Clubs continue for the Spring term.

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

Tuesday 5th March

6 Brazil visiting the Blue Anchor library for story-telling and book swapping.

Wednesday 6th March

Parents' Literacy course continues at Alexis St.

KS1 Recorder lessons.

Years3&4 Belgium children swimming lessons.

Thursday 7th March

'School Food Matters' assemblies for all Key Stage Two children on Healthy Eating and Lifestyles and waste and sustainability.

Year 1 trip to the Science Museum for part of their Science learning.

3 Sweden to Pizza Express for pizza making cooking workshops.

Parent Gym course continues at Alexis St with Mrs Brenta.

Friday 8th March

World Book Day celebration day. Children can dress up as their favourite book characters and take part in activities in school

5 India swimming lessons.

KS2 Violin lessons.

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 (hopefully drier!) weekend.

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