

Dear Parents & Carers,

WHAT. A. WEEK! We weren't expecting Ofsted to call on Monday, and while this was challenging in the final week of term we were very ready! I can't share the judgment of our Section 8 inspection with anyone outside of school until it's published in September, however I do want to say we had a very positive inspection experience with a lovely inspector who said MANY super things to praise our children, staff and community. We'll share what will sadly be a very short report as well as some of the highlights with you in September. My sincere and heartfelt thanks for all your messages of support and excellent comments on our Parent View Ofsted website.

This week Reception performed their end of year show, Nursery graduated, Belgium class attended a great sports event and Year 6 attended their Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday. We look forward to our service later this morning at 11:00 to say a fond farewell to them.

Arbor Communication App

You'll receive an e-mail from our ICT Manager, Mrs Davies regarding a new 'Arbor' app we're rolling out in September. This will eventually replace SchoolsBuddy which we have on occasion found difficult to use. This app will be needed for booking clubs, wraparound care and parents' evenings etc in addition to making school journey payments for Year 6 next year. We hope you find it easy to download and use for communications in the future.

School Day Timings – September 2024

Yet another reminder of changing the school day timings in September 2024 (when it will become statutory for all primary children to receive a minimum of 32.50 hours per week). After consultation with parents and staff, the new school day timings will be as follows from September 2024:

- **KS2** (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) – Alexis St: **08:45 – 15:15;**
- **KS1** (Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2) – Old Jamaica Road: **09:00 – 15:30.**

Uniform for September

Please follow this link <https://www.shopkeepeasy.com/100829> to our supplier to place a uniform order, you can choose to have delivered to school to save on postage and packing, but please note we break up for summer on 19th July and school will be closed for deliveries. You can also purchase plain maroon cardigans and sweatshirts/jumpers from high street stores. If your order is not received in school by then the supplier will not be delivering until the first week of September, when we will be able to receive deliveries. We will then contact you to collect. The 'pre-loved' uniform shop is open on Wednesday mornings until the end of term. If you would like to get any uniform ahead of September, for a small donation to school funds, then please go along to Alexis St and see Mrs. Brenta on Wednesdays from 9am.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's Family Lives newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-jul24?e=82d627ecc2>

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

As we've advised during many conversations this year, improving school attendance is everyone's business, and we need to work together on this, we want the best for your children, as you do, and being in school every day facilitates not only learning, but friendships and wellbeing too. We have a new Attendance Policy, ratified by our governing body, please do take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with it, please see attached, or visit our policies page on our website

Our Whole School attendance should be 96%, and we are currently just below this figure, which is positive. Individual attendance percentages will be on your child's school report, sent home in July. If their attendance is lower than 90% this is a cause for some concern and for the next academic year, we will be looking for some improvement on this and we are always happy to discuss ways we may be able to assist.

Our school Attendance continues to be in line with national figures, but from September, tighter Government guidance becomes statutory. Ahead of this we are analysing some reasons for children missing school due to illness. There is an NHS guidance below, should you be unsure about sending your child to school. Please follow this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Mrs. Brenta recently met with Southwark Early Help and further support can be offered to families whose children have low attendance rates, some classified as Persistent Absentees (below 90% attendance). This can include referrals to the school nursing team and the Education Inclusion Team at Southwark Council. From September, a much more targeted approach will be implemented with regular correspondence and meetings together if we have concerns for children with low attendance rates. You may receive an individual letter if your child is a persistent absentee with particularly low attendance in school, if there is any support we can offer you to help improve your child's attendance please do ask to see Mrs Brenta. The Department for Education can access live data for attendance at school and will be following up on all attendance in school with regular meetings between school and Southwark Early Help team.

Please remember - *Moments Matter, Attendance Counts* - more to come in the coming weeks!

Wishing you, along with our whole community, a super, safe, happy and resful Summer holiday. We're looking forward to seeing you all and the children back on Tuesday 3rd September at the NEW times above. Information on gates etc will be sent before we return.

God bless,

from the St. James' team.

