

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy and long half term to start the academic year! There have been so many achievements and things to be proud of – a highlight of this week was the children's confident and skilful performance in Wednesday's concert in church; thank you so much for attending and also for your generous contributions as ticket sales. Thanks also, as always, to Miss Jess for putting this together. Lots to look forward to next half term, including Christmas nativities and performances, lots of trips, sports events and activities, and a continuation of super learning from our children! Do look at the 'dates for your diaries' letter as usual for upcoming events.

Our Collective Worship theme this week focused on the Parables and Teachings of Jesus – after half term we'll explore Faith, Remembrance, Hope and Love before we start with Advent.

'Joy of Moving' – Additional PE Sessions for Years 5&6

Next half term, **6 Leopold** will be receiving additional PE sessions on **Monday afternoons**. This is through our partnership with Millwall FC and will be led by their team of coaches. These sessions will last all half term and include both classroom based and physical sessions, therefore, all children will need to be in their PE kits in order to participate. This will start from Monday 4th November. The children will be learning all about healthy eating and the benefits of an active lifestyle. 6 Hockney and Year 5 will be receiving these sessions after the Christmas break.

Reception 2025-2026 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

A reminder that we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2025. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, on Thursday 7th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30. There are more dates after half term – included on the attached dates letter.

Parent Gym

It was lovely to see so many of you at the taster session for Parent Gym. The 6-week programme will start on Wednesday 6th November, at Alexis St, from 09:30-11:30. If you are interested in attending, please do contact Mrs Brenta, who will be delighted to give you more information. If you would like to reserve a place please follow this link:

<https://parentgym.arlo.co/courses/10-parent-gym?e=0d3d8a4ef687407dbd0bd3df7fe13baf>

'Wear Blue' Non-uniform Day, Friday 8th November

The first Friday back after half term, we're encouraging all children to wear blue in exchange for a donation to Diabetes Support from Evelina and King's College Hospitals and the important work they do locally. We do ask for charitable donations during Autumn term 2 to support both school and some of our favourite and very deserving causes – suggesting £1.00 – however please do just give whatever you can as always; children are never excluded from any event by not donating!

St. James's Church Christmas Card Design Competition

Another reminder that Vicar Katie would like to use a design by one of our children for the St. James's Christmas card this year. Children are encouraged to produce a design on white A4/A5 paper or card – preferably with felt tip pen so the image is printed better. This could be a half term activity; all entries submitted by Friday 8th November please.

Flu Immunisations – Tuesday 5th November

Another reminder that the NHS come in to school each year to administer nasal flu immunisations to all children. Please find again a letter attached and use the QR code therein to register your child/ren.

PE Kit Days

Please note children's PE days remain the same next half term (apart from additional Monday for 6 Leopold as mentioned and any additional sports events which we'll contact you about in advance).

- **Tuesday:** Years 3 and 5;
- **Wednesday:** Years 1 and 2;
- **Thursday:** Reception, Years 4 and 6.

Half Term Events & Activities

We're wishing everyone a lovely, restorative Half Term break! Here are a few links in addition to several previous fliers sent out over the past few weeks should you be interested:

- Borough Market: <https://boroughmarket.org.uk/events/october-half-term-activities/> ;
- Cutty Sark: <https://www.rmg.co.uk/plan-your-visit/tickets-prices/universal-credit-tickets-cutty-sark> ;
- Tower Bridge: <https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/your-visit/community-ticket> ;
- London Zoo: <https://www.londonzoo.org/plan-your-visit/london-zoo-tickets/universal-credit-tickets> ;
- Things to do: <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/family-activities/31-free-things-to-do-with-kids> ;

First Week Back – please also note the 'dates for your diaries' letter

Monday 4th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to school for Autumn term 2 at normal school times: 08:45 Alexis St/09:00 Old Jamaica Road; • Violin lessons continue at KS2 (weekly); • 6 Leopold's 1st 'Joy of Moving' session – PE Kits please in addition to Thursday this half term (as above); • Clubs continue for the Autumn term.
Tuesday 5th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Children's Nasal Flu immunisations with School Nursing team; • Year 4 trip to the British Museum as part of their History learning.
Wednesday 6th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorder lessons continue at KS1 (weekly); • Year 5 trip to the National Maritime Museum Greenwich as part of their History learning; • Parent Gym session with Mrs Brenta, 09:30-11:30 at Alexis St.
Thursday 7th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception 2025 tour – Old Jamaica Road, 09:30.
Friday 8th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Wear Blue' non-uniform day for King's College & Evelina Diabetes Support. Wear blue items of clothing in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 or more.

Wishing you, along with our whole community, a really lovely, restful and fun Autumn half term break! We're looking forward to seeing everyone back, refreshed and raring to go, on Monday 4th November at the usual school times 😊

God bless,

from the St. James' team.