

Friday 25th April 2025

It's great to be back and hear about what the children have been doing with their Easter holidays! All are settled and have hit the ground running for what will be a productive (if fairly short!) half term.

We attended church for a 'Welcome Back' service on Tuesday; Year 5 continued with their 'Brain Buddies' sessions on Wednesday and their 'Mini Police' citizenship workshops yesterday; 5 Turner begin their swimming lessons at Downside Fisher today and children have worn non-uniform today in support of 'Shelter' and Miss Rudd's London Marathon challenge on Sunday – we wish her the best of luck with this and thank you all for your support!

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in attendance for Wednesday's EYFS and Key Stage One parents' evening. Don't forget - Years 3 - 6 parent/carer consultations take place next Wednesday, 30th April, from 15:45 – 19:30. If you're struggling to book on the Arbor app, do get in touch and we can help. Do be reminded as usual, all meetings will take place in the main hall at our **Old Jamaica Road** site. We're looking forward to updating you on your child/ren's progress then.

5 Turner Swimming

Children in 5 Turner have started their swimming sessions at Downside Fisher today, these will be each Friday until half term. This will be in addition to their usual PE day of Thursday this half term.

PE Days This Half term

A reminder that PE days remain the same for most year groups this half term as detailed below with the exception of Reception who from next week will need to wear PE kits each Tuesday instead. PE days will remain the same unless notified otherwise/for an additional sports opportunity or event.

- PE Kits every TUESDAY this half term: Year 3, Year 6 & Reception;
- PE Kits every WEDNESDAY this half term: Year 1 & Year 2;
- PE Kits every THURSDAY this half term: Year 4 & Year 5. Children in Cezanne should wear kits according to the year group they are in.

Monday Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please find an attachment outlining new clubs on offer for the Summer term. All Monday clubs commence on Monday 12th May and will finish on Monday 30th June. **These will be available to sign-up for on our Arbor app from 09:00 on Monday 28th April.** Sign-up then closes at 19:00 on 19th May or when club is full (max 20 attendees), whichever is sooner.

The London Mini-Marathon Challenge – Years 3-6

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Next Friday (2nd May), every member of KS2 will be attempting to complete the London 'Mini-Marathon' challenge. They will be aiming to run or walk around our larger Alexis St playground 30 times, a distance of two miles! We are raising money for our school fund to go towards trips and equipment for the children and each child has taken home a sponsorship form in order to collect sponsorship. Please can you assist your child should they need any support with explaining the challenge to any adults they are asking to sponsor them. We have spare sponsorship sheets at the office should your child need one. Forms (along with any money that has been raised) can be given to their class teacher, the office or Mr. Brenta. Please make sure money is secure and safe in an envelope with their name on. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL KEY STAGE TWO CHILDREN WEAR PE KITS AND TRAINERS ON THIS ADDITIONAL DAY NEXT FRIDAY.** Many thanks for your support and encouragement with this!

BIG Coffee Morning – Thursday 8th May, 09:00, Old Jamaica Road

We are very excited to be holding our **BIG** coffee morning on **Thursday 8th May, 2025 from 9am -11am** at Old Jamaica Road. There are a number of local organisations who are coming along to share how they may be able to help our school community. Please see the attached flier for information on those in attendance. We hope to see you there!

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow the link for this moth's Family Lives Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-apr25?e=10e6384bfc>

Friday 2nd May 2025

We're happy to report a lovely, sunny, busy second week of the Summer term! This week our swimming lessons have continued; Year 1 attended a super trip to the Horniman Aquarium and Gardens; Year 5 continue with their 'Mini-Police' citizenship sessions; Year 4 had a lovely story-telling and art session in the Orchard; our KS2 children are warming up for their 'Mini Marathon' at Alexis St today and our parents' evenings across both key stages have been really positive and well-attended.

Our Collective Worship theme has been based around the lead up to Pentecost, The Holy Spirit, and events following Easter.

BIG Coffee Morning – Thursday 8th May, 09:00, Old Jamaica Road

We are very excited to be holding our **BIG** coffee morning next week on **Thursday 8th May, 2025 from 9am -11am** at Old Jamaica Road. There are a number of local organisations who are coming along to share how they may be able to help our school community. Please see the attached flier for information on those in attendance. We hope to see you there!

Cultural Diversity Day – Thursday 15th May, 15:15-16:30, Alexis St Playground

We're thrilled to announce our imminent '**Cultural Diversity Day**' on **Thursday 15th May** with an event after school in the Alexis St playground where parents/carers are invited to bring food/dishes from their cultural heritage to share with others. On this day,

all children are invited to wear non-uniform to reflect the day. Traditional dress from different cultures is very much encouraged, or even clothes that incorporate the flag of the country your family is from. Please do join us after school at Alexis St on this day – save the date and time and think about what food you could bring to share!

Arbor App/Parent Communication

The rollout of the Arbor parent app has been a real success story in the past year and parents are using it to book parent consultations, clubs and wraparound care as well as update their child and family details held on Arbor.

We would now like to ask you to ensure that you have **notifications turned on for the Arbor app** so that, on occasion, we can push notifications through the app as a form of reminder. This is potentially a more effective way of reminding parents to book clubs or consultations, rather than to send out text messages. The push notifications are free; the text messages are not! We send on average 100,000 texts each year and we would like to reduce this number and the cost associated with it. These notifications are not intended to replace all text messaging; we will always contact you directly by telephone, text or email on serious matters concerning your child. Thank you for making this small change on your device to help us continue to communicate with our families in the most effective way we can.

Monday Extra-Curricular Clubs

Spaces in these are filling fast! All Monday clubs commence on Monday 12th May and will finish on Monday 30th June. **These are available to sign-up for on our Arbor app.** Sign-up then closes at 19:00 on 19th May or when club is full (max 20 attendees), whichever is sooner.

Southwark Jaguars Girls' Football Trials

Southwark Jaguars are pleased to announce the trial date for their 25/26 Southwark Jaguar Team: **Monday 19th May, Burgess Park Astro Turf (17:00-18:00)**. They are currently looking for players in the following school year groups, 3,4,5 & 6. If your daughter is keen to trial, do pop along on the above date and follow the registration link to express interest:

[Southwark Jaguars Register of Interest - The PE & School Sports Network](#)

May Half Term Girls' Football Camp

The PE Network are pleased to announce that the booking link for their FREE local Girls' Football camp during the May half term break is now LIVE! Follow this link:

[Registration Form \(Free Football Camp\) - The PE & School Sports Network](#)

Friday 9th May 2025

Another short, yet busy and productive week! Our Mini-Marathon at KS2 was a HUGE success last Friday – very well done to all the children for taking part with such enthusiasm and THANK YOU all for such generous donations through sponsorship. Our BIG Coffee Morning yesterday was very well-attended and informative with a range of different agencies

– many thanks to Mrs Brenta for organising this. Swimming lessons continue along with more sports events for classes/teams on the horizon.

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to be based around the lead up to Pentecost, The Holy Spirit, and events following Easter.

Year 6 SATs Week

Next week, our most senior children sit their Year 6 SATs tests! The children have been working so hard in preparation for these and, as always, we ask them simply to try their very best with no unnecessary pressure. We know they'll perform brilliantly. **If your child is in Year 6, do ensure they're in on time every day from Monday 12th – Thursday 15th May!** Many thanks for your co-operation and encouragement with these.

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Arbor App/Parent Communication

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If you are yet to download the Arbor app, details and guidance can be found here:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=Using+the+Arbor+parent+portal+and+app&pid=215>

QR codes for either Apple or Android devices can be found here to take you straight to the right app.

Monday Extra-Curricular Clubs

Spaces in all Monday clubs seem to be (nearly) taken – these commence on Monday (12th May) and will finish on Monday 30th June. **These are available to sign-up for on our Arbor app.** Sign-up then closes at 19:00 on 19th May or when club is full (max 20 attendees), whichever is sooner.

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Friday 16th May 2025

A busy week as we approach our final week of Summer term 1! Time is really flying. Year 6 have completed their SATs tests; Years 1 & 4 have attended the Natural History Museum as part of this term's Geography learning; it was super to see our children dressed up in amazing outfits which reflected their heritage yesterday and lovely for our community to come together to share some food at Alexis St. Many thanks to Miss Reid and Mrs Brenta for organising such a wonderful event! Clubs have now started, Year 5 Girls' footballers had a great match with Michael Faraday on Tuesday and swimming lessons continue to be enjoyed by all. Our Collective Worship theme has continued to be based around the lead up to Pentecost, The Holy Spirit, and events following Easter.

Year 6 SATs

We're incredibly proud of our Year 6 children for performing really well, and with great maturity, in their SATs tests this week – outcomes will come to us just before we break up for the Summer holidays and you'll be informed of these then. Whatever these are – a huge well done to them and to parents and carers for your encouragement and support.

Years 3, 4 & Cezanne Class Violin Recital – Monday 19th May, 14:00, OJR Hall

Parents and carers of Year 3, 4 or Cezanne class children are warmly invited to join us in the Old Jamaica Road Hall at 14:00 on Monday to see children's violin progress with Miss Josie this year.

Years 1&2 Performance – Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st May, 14:00, OJR Hall

Parents of Year 1&2 children are also welcome to attend our presentation of songs and performance work from this term – do come on either Tuesday or Wednesday at 14:00 in the OJR Hall.

Easy Fundraising

Another reminder (and plea!) that we've registered St. James' C of E Primary School with #easyfundraising, which means over 7,500 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use 'easyfundraising' to shop with them. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Please scan the

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QR code attached and register. Every time you shop on-line via their App (over 7,500 brands and retailers), our school will benefit.

'Sculpting with Kids' - Sunday 18th May, 2025 at The Dulwich Picture Gallery

Join our ex-pupil Xavier Leopold on Sunday at Dulwich Picture Gallery where he will be facilitating sculpture workshops, aimed at children of all ages. Please find a flier attached with links and further details.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow attached link for this month's Family Lives Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-may25?e=82d627eec2>

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Millwall Half Term Holiday Camp

Millwall Football Club are holding a May Half Term Holiday Camp, taking place at the Lions Centre, Bolina Road, SE16 3LD from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May 2025. Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm daily. Cost: £12 per day or just £40 for all 4 days. Location: The Lions Centre (next to The Den). Camps are run by FA-qualified coaches in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment. Children will enjoy structured football activities, games, and tournaments. Places are limited and fill quickly — early booking is advised! Book now via: [Millwall Holiday Camp Booking](#) Please also see the attached flier for more details.

Friday 6th June 2025

A great start to our final half term of this academic year! Children have approached new learning, books, and topics with gusto and are really in the swing of things already. Library visits have resumed, with 1 Matisse, 1 Rousseau and 2 Picasso all attending. 6 Hockney begin their series of swimming lessons at Downside Fisher today; our Year 5 children have continued with their 'Mini-Police' Junior Citizenship course and I'm thrilled with our Year 5 & 6 Athletics team who won a tournament at Southwark Park against local schools with the PE Network on Monday – very well done to them!

Our Collective Worship theme has started to focus on 'Heroes of the Faith'. This week we learnt about a local hero – Pat O'Connor (one of our governors, who used to run our wraparound care provision) – who was recently awarded the Lancelot Andrewes medal for services to the gospel. We're very proud of her for such an achievement!

Class Photos

These were taken on Tuesday – children will by now have brought home slips with QR codes should you want to buy pictures of children in their classes. Do contact Sharon Fox should these have gone missing/you're struggling to order and we can liaise with the company separately.

Sports Day – Friday 13th June, Southwark Park Athletics Track (Years 1-6)

We're really looking to our children taking part in their Sports Day next Friday. This will be at the Southwark Park Athletics track as usual. Years 1 & 2 will compete from 10am-12noon. Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will compete from 12:30pm-3pm. Do come and show support at these times. A reminder for ALL children to wear PE kits and trainers next Friday IN ADDITION to their normal PE days, bring a water bottle and a sun/baseball hat and to apply sun cream before school (if necessary; let's hope!). KS2 children will be able to be collected from the event – class teachers will need to see you before you take them so do be patient. If children are returning to school they may be a few minutes delayed due to our 15:15 finish time at Alexis St. **SAVE THE DATE** – Reception Sports Afternoon Friday 20th June, 13:30 in the OJR Playground.

Year 2-3 Transition Parent Morning, Thursday 19th June

You'll see on the 'dates' letter that current Year 2 parents are invited to Alexis St to see the children's new environment in September. We have lots of opportunities for Year 2 to visit Alexis St before the Summer Holidays and this will be a lovely opportunity for you as parents to see our Alexis St site too. This will be from 09:30 on Thursday 19th June.

PE Days – Summer Term 2

Another reminder of the following days for PE Kits to be worn for the final half term of the year (most remain the same, note a switch for Years 5&6):

- PE Kits every TUESDAY this half term: Year 3, Year 5 & Reception;
- PE Kits every WEDNESDAY this half term: Year 1 & Year 2;
- PE Kits every THURSDAY this half term: Year 4 & Year 6. Children in Cezanne class (KS2) should wear kits according to the year group they are in.

Punctuality/Late Collections

A growing and concerning trend is for some children/families to be late to school, and also late collected at the end of the day, frequently. I've spoken to a few individual parents recently about this and want to remind everyone that children need both to be in ON-TIME each morning and collected ON-TIME every evening. Children miss learning at the beginning of the day and cannot be left unattended at the end of the day. This is simply unfair on the children – wraparound care is available should this help. If you're struggling for whatever reason, please do get in touch and see if there's any way we can help.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026

To current Year 5 parents and carers, please find attached a letter detailing next year's residential trip. This is always an exciting opportunity for the children and a super way to end their time at primary school. Do read all the details and respond in a timely way should you wish for your child to attend. Sadly, a few children are not attending this year as parents didn't book them on despite reminders. Do be aware we cannot book additional children on past a certain deadline.

Community Bike Sale – Thursday 12th June

RJ4All Rotherhithe Community Centre are hosting a Community Bike Sale with 'Recycle Your Cycle' on Thursday 12th June, and it's all about promoting cycling, sustainability, and connection within our neighbourhood. **Where:** The RJ4All Rotherhithe Community Centre, 30 Plough Way, London SE16 2LJ. **When:** Thursday 12th June. **Time:** 3pm-6pm. Attendees will be able to: buy affordable second-hand bikes; pick up secure D-locks for sale; get tips on bike sizing and maintenance; connect with others who care about greener, healthier ways to get around. See the attached flier for further details.

Friday 13th June 2025

Children continue to be settling in very well to our final half term – lots of trips and events this week, and on the horizon, at what is always a busy and exciting time of year.

Library visits have continued, with 3 Seurat and 2 Van Gogh attending. Reception and Year 6 have attended the Science Museum; Year 1 visited the London Transport Museum; our Year 5 children have now graduated from their 'Mini-Police' Junior Citizenship course; Year 2 continue with their transition work to Alexis St – sharing poetry with Year 5 yesterday; Reception have music workshops to look forward to this afternoon and we're thrilled as ever for Years 1-6 to be performing in our annual Sports Day at Southwark Park athletics track today.

Our Collective Worship theme has started to focus on 'Heroes of the Faith'. This week we learnt about Martha, Joshua and Noah and how we can take inspiration from them.

5 Ofili Sports Trip with London PE Network – Wednesday 18th June

5 Ofili will have an additional trip to Burgess Park with the PE Network next Wednesday – please do send children in wearing PE kits on this additional day if in 5 Ofili class.

Reception Sports Day – Friday 20th June, OJR Playground

Parents and carers of Reception children are invited to their Sports Afternoon, next Friday 20th June, from 13:30 in the OJR Playground. Please ensure Reception children wear PE Kits on this additional day and join us to cheer the children on!

Year 2-3 Transition Parent Morning, Thursday 19th June

You'll see on the 'dates' letter that current Year 2 parents are invited to Alexis St to see the children's new environment in September. We have lots of opportunities for Year 2 to visit Alexis St before the Summer Holidays and this will be a lovely opportunity for you as parents to see our Alexis St site too. This will be from 09:30 on Thursday 19th June.

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deadline. A few parents have already paid deposits, therefore secured places using the Arbor app – many thanks for this.

Year 6 Cycle Confident Sessions – Next Week

Mrs Brenta has organised Year 6 Cycle Confident sessions each day next week for Year 6 advanced cyclists. Children may bring in their own bicycles for this, however there will be others provided too. If you signed up/returned a signed form, do remind Year 6 children to bring in their bikes and be prepared for these sessions, both in the playground and on local roads near our Key Stage Two site.

Ark Globe Summer Fair

Please see attached details of Ark Globe Academy's summer fair.

ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) Classes

Southwark Adult Education centre will be running an open day for ESOL provision on Wednesday 18th June from 11.00am – 14.00 at the Thomas Calton Centre, Peckham SE15 4NX. Please see fliers attached (English & Spanish) for further information. If you are new to English, or wish to improve your English knowledge please do go along for the open day. If there are enough parents/carers from St. James' interested we may be able to run ESOL classes here in school.

Friday 20th June

Another busy and beautifully sunny week in school! Library visits have continued, with 3 Lawrence and Year 4 attending. Swimming lessons continue, 5 Ofili had a great Sports Trip with the PE Network on Wednesday, Year 6 have engaged brilliantly with Cycle Confident lessons all week; Year 2 parents attended Alexis St yesterday for a transition tour of Alexis St ready for September and we look forward to welcoming Reception parents and carers to OJR from 13:30 this afternoon for Reception Sports Day. This follows the success of our Years 1-6 Sports Day at Southwark Park Athletics track last Friday – many thanks to Mr. Brenta for organising a terrific event!

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on 'Heroes of the Faith'. This week we learnt about John Wesley, Daniel and had a visit from Simon Hughes on Wednesday.

Year 6 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip Next Week (Mon-Weds) We're really looking forward to this for those children joining us! Kit list is attached again FYI. I sent an e-mail with all details earlier in the week, however do be reminded:

- Children to arrive at Alexis St at 08:30 (no earlier) on Monday where we will assemble for the coach;
- We ask for ONE packed lunch to be provided for the first day. All other meals provided;
- No need for school uniform, children to come ready for activities;
- NO Mobiles/electronic devices including smart/Apple watches/valuables to be brought;
- Children may bring a maximum of £10, either cash or on a pre-payment card. If these are in wallets/named envelopes, we will look after money;

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- Sleeping bag and pillow as per attached kit list;
- When we arrive back on Wednesday we'll contact you en route.

We anticipate being back around 15:00 depending on traffic.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026

Another reminder for current Year 5 parents and carers, please find attached again a letter detailing next year's residential trip. Do read all the details and respond in a timely way should you wish for your child to attend. Do be aware we cannot book additional children on past a certain deadline. A few parents have already paid deposits, therefore secured places using the Arbor app – many thanks for this.

Ark Globe Summer Fair Please see attached details of Ark Globe Academy's summer fair on Saturday. Summer Girls' Football Camps with the PE Network Please find a flier attached regarding Summer Girls' football camps at Michael Faraday Primary School should this be of interest.

Friday 27th June 2025

We've had a busy and productive week both in and out of school – the main highlight being Year 6's residential trip to PGL, Marchant's Hill, Surrey, where children had a great time, faced many challenges and engaged with really fun activities for the three days! Reception attended a trip on Tuesday to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; Key Stage Two children are watching a performance delivered by students from St. Saviour's and St. Olave's this afternoon and library visits and swimming lessons continue.

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on 'Heroes of the Faith'. This week we learnt about Gideon and Jonah and what we can take from these characters in the Bible.

Assessment Week

Next week will be our final Assessment Week for the academic year. As always, all we ask is that children try their very best in calm environments to show us what they've learnt this year. Children are generally un-phased by these and ready to show us what they know! These assessments will inform end of year judgments which will come home on Annual Reports at the end of term.

Talk Matters Project – Parents' Survey

St. James' CofE Primary School is taking part in a programme to support children's speaking and listening skills (known as 'oracy') in conjunction with Southwark council. Researchers from Ecorys are looking at what difference this programme makes. Please take 5 minutes to complete this short survey. We are really keen to get your views. You can click on the link below to complete the survey or see more details with a QR code on the attachment.

<https://forms.office.com/e/9HG09Qm7QK>

'Making it REAL' – Please See Separate Flier Attached

We are thrilled to tell you about 'Making it REAL' (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy)

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which is a highly effective, evidence-based programme funded by Southwark Council and the National Children's Bureau (NCB). Delivered in partnership with Southwark Council as part of the Southwark Family Hub & Start for Life initiative, it's designed to support parents/carers with children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old who are not yet in full-time education. Through four personalised home visits, trained staff and volunteers provide practical, engaging support to strengthen early literacy and boost school readiness, all in the familiar and nurturing environment of the child's home.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026

Another reminder for current Year 5 parents and carers, please find attached again a letter detailing next year's residential trip. Do read all the details and respond in a timely way should you wish for your child to attend. Do be aware we cannot book additional children on past a certain deadline. A few parents have already paid deposits, therefore secured places using the Arbor app – many thanks for this.

Easy Fundraising

Please see attached flier explaining 'EasyFundraising', which we are delighted to be part of. Do check out how easy it is to raise money for our school!

Summer Girls' Football Camps with the PE Network

Please find a flier attached again regarding Summer Girls' football camps at Michael Faraday Primary School should this be of interest.

Family Lives Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-jun25?e=82d627eec2>

Friday 4th July 2025

Another warm and busy week! Children performed well in their assessments and worked hard to show us all they know (end of year assessment judgments and performance data will appear on end of year Reports which will be sent via e-mail in the final week of term); Years 1 & 2 all visited Hyde Park for their British Summer Time Festival on Tuesday and Wednesday; Year 3 are all attending Music workshops in the Appleby Blue today; we have begun to welcome children and new parents/carers for our Reception cohort in September 2025 and many Year 6s have attended transition days to secondary schools. Year 6 also attended the Oval on Monday for a terrific Cricket trip, and library visits and swimming lessons continue.

Our Collective Worship theme has started to focus on 'Moving On' as we approach the end of the academic year. On Wednesday we all paid tribute to Penny Molyneux at Old Jamaica Road as she retired from our Full Governing Board after over 20 years of service. We wish her the very best of luck for a full and happy retirement.

Years 4, 5 & 6 Intra-Sport Event – Monday 7th July

Mr. Brenta has organised a separate sporting event day for children in Years 4, 5 & 6 on Monday. Please send children (Years 4-6 only) in on Monday in PE Kits in addition to their

usual PE Day. There will also be a Girls' in Sport festival at Bacon's College on Friday – separate letters by invitation will come home with young ladies who will be taking part in this.

City Hope Church 'Funday in the Park' – Saturday 5th July

Please find attached a flier from City Hope Church advertising a fun family day at the Southwark Park Athletics track from 14:00 tomorrow. This is part of London Mission Week – many events have been held successfully in our Church Yard too; it's been great to see lots of engagement with this! Further information and a contact provided on the attachment.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026

Another reminder for current Year 5 parents and carers, please find attached again a letter detailing next year's residential trip. Do read all the details and respond in a timely way should you wish for your child to attend. Do be aware we cannot book additional children on past a certain deadline. Many parents have now already paid deposits, therefore secured places using the Arbor app – many thanks for this. Do be mindful of the deadline to pay deposits, therefore securing your child's place – Thursday 17th July.

Southwark Summer Holiday Activities and Adult Education Opportunities

Please see fliers from Southwark Adult Education (Thomas Calton Centre) advertising summer events for families and courses for adults should these be of interest.

Newsletter – Friday 4th July 2025 Summer Girls' Football Camps with the PE Network

Please find a flier attached again regarding Summer Girls' football camps at Michael Faraday Primary School should this be of interest.

Summer Holiday Camps/Childcare/Events

As usual, we always try to pass on as many holiday schemes or activities which happen locally as we can. As above, there are a few attached today and we're gathering more ideas to send to you separately as well. If you know of anything which we can share with parents/carers, either in or near to our local community, please do pass them on to the office e-mail and I'll include in future communications.

Friday 11th July

I can't quite believe we've come to the end of our final full week of the academic year! Busy-busy still - Years 3, 4 & 5 and Cezanne class all visited Hyde Park for their British Summer Time Festival; Years 4, 5 & 6 took part in an 'Intra-School' Athletics Competition with the PE Network at Alexis St; another group of children attended the Oval for a terrific Cricket trip; Year 6 attended their Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral and Year 5 attended a Drama Workshop at St. Saviour's and St. Olave's. Library visits have also continued and Rodney is attending both sites today to promote the annual 'Summer Reading Challenge' at the Blue Anchor Library which our children always participate in with great enthusiasm!

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on 'Moving On' as we approach the end of the academic year. – Don't forget, our end of term Year 6 Leavers' service in St. James's Church next Thursday at 11:00 – all are very welcome to attend. Do remember – we break up

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for the Summer Holidays next Thursday – 17th July at 13:15 (Alexis St) and 13:30 (Old Jamaica Road). There is no after school club provision at either site on this final day of term.

Year 5&6 Violin Recital in the OJR Hall at 14:00 – Monday 14th July

Years 5&6 will be ready on Monday to perform for parents and carers and show their progress with the violin this year. Do join us at OJR on Monday afternoon, 14:00, to watch them. Do note, Cezanne class have already performed in the Year 3&4 recital earlier in the term.

Reception Summer Production in the OJR Hall at 14:00 – Tuesday 15th July

It's also time for Reception to shine next week – do join us on Tuesday at 14:00 in the OJR Hall to see their production. They're singing and performing really well for this!

Nursery Graduation in the OJR Hall at 14:00 – Wednesday 16th July

Come and join our Nursery graduates who are moving on to Reception on Wednesday afternoon, 14:00, in the OJR Hall. They'll also be performing some songs to celebrate the end of their time in Nursery.

Summer Holidays

The long summer break can be challenging financially for families. Living in London, especially in this area, there is so much to do and visit with children that needn't cost a fortune. Your children could research free activities, and then help plan the day. Take packed lunches and snacks, and enjoy all London has to offer. Ask your children to write a diary about their day and draw pictures when you get home.

Follow this link for free activities: <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/family-activities/31-freethings-to-do-with-kids> in addition to the sports and local activities sent to you yesterday and in previous newsletters.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026 Another reminder – the end of term and deadline for signing up is fast approaching (!) - for current Year 5 parents and carers, please find attached again a letter detailing next year's residential trip. Do read all the details and respond in a timely way should you wish for your child to attend. Do be aware we cannot book additional children on past a certain deadline. Many parents have now already paid deposits, therefore secured places using the Arbor app – many thanks for this. Do be mindful of the deadline to pay deposits, therefore securing your child's place – Thursday 17th July.

Term Dates 2025-2026

Do follow the link to our term dates for next academic year:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/site/data/files/documents/term%20dates/6F538A2D49DCF89955C89F16D38B4EB1.pdf>

Children will be back to school on Tuesday 2nd September.

Thursday 17th July

A busy final week of the academic year!

Years 5&6 performed wonderfully in their Violin Recital on Monday, showing super progress; Reception children performed with great enthusiasm and confidence in their Summer Production on Tuesday; Nursery children had their graduation on Wednesday and we've all been busy preparing for the end of term in many different ways. We're looking forward to our service at 11:00 where we say farewell to our Year 6s. This always provokes a mixture of excitement and sadness as we remember our time together. They performed brilliantly in their SATs and are ready to leave us for their next step. To them and anyone leaving us, we will miss you very much and send all our very best wishes.

Do remember – we break up for the Summer Holidays today at 13:15 (Alexis St) and 13:30 (Old Jamaica Road). There is no after school club provision at either site on this final day of term.

Performance Data 2024-2025

We're pleased to share with you our initial performance data for this academic year (attached). Do note we perform consistently above national averages in most areas and also our improved attainment with children achieving 'Greater Depth' (above expected) in KS2 which has been a real focus this year. A huge 'well done' to ALL our children for their achievements and to our team for their enthusiasm and dedication to the children.

Summer Holidays

The long summer break can be challenging financially for families. Living in London, especially in this area, there is so much to do and visit with children that needn't cost a fortune. Your children could research free activities, and then help plan the day. Take packed lunches and snacks, and enjoy all London has to offer. Ask your children to write a diary about their day and draw pictures when you get home. Follow this link for free activities: <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/family-activities/31-free-things-to-do-with-kids> in addition to the sports and local activities sent to you yesterday and in previous newsletters.

Year 5 Parents/Carers – PGL Residential Trip June 2026

Today is the deadline to secure a place on next year's residential trip! Do refer to the

attached letter and pay a deposit/contact Mrs Fox today if you haven't done this and would like your child to attend next June.

Classes/Teachers September 2025

Children and teachers had fun meeting each other on Tuesday to familiarise themselves with new faces and environments. Please find attached again class names and teachers in addition to gates etc in September. We'll also send reminders before we come back to school for the new year.

Term Dates 2025-2026

Do follow the link to our term dates for next academic year:

<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/site/data/files/documents/term%20dates/6F538A2D49DCF89955C89F16D38B4EB1.pdf>

Children will be back to school on Tuesday 2nd September.

Internet Safety – Year 6 Transitions

As children transition from Primary School to Secondary, they experience many digital firsts. Help them to understand the possible risks and benefits of going online with these resources for parents and carers from Internet Matters. This link, specifically aimed at Year 6 as they leave primary school, is full of information and guidance on the joys and potential pitfalls of life online:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/moving-to-secondary-school-online-safety-guide/?utm_campaign=1847760_NL%20030725%20Teachers%20and%20DM%20-%20Send%20Home%20Transition%20and%20Roblox&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email_internal&dm_i=7MSZ,13LQO,2VE0FE,2TZSJ,1

Wishing you, our children, and our whole school community a wonderful, happy and safe Summer holiday!

We look forward to seeing all children back on Tuesday 2nd September at the usual school times. 😊