

Friday 5th September 2025

Welcome back to St. James' after the Summer break – and welcome to our school community for our many new starters! It's lovely to see the children and hear about their long holidays. Children seem really happy in their new classes; Year 3 have had a terrific and seamless transition to Alexis St and our new Nursery and Reception starters continue to begin school gradually to ensure they are happy and settled in their new environments. This week we had a lovely 'Welcome Back' service on Tuesday with Vicars Katie and Dominic where our Head Girl and Boy and their deputies were announced. Our Collective Worship theme this week has focused on solid foundations with 'The Wise and Foolish Men' in addition to looking at our character traits and associated readings. Next week we'll continue to think about 'new starts' as we enter our new year. **Do note some important things as we start back for 2025-2026...**

Dates for your Diaries

As always, we're busy booking trips and events and organising our calendar. An initial dates letter is attached with events coming up and term dates etc to the end of the year. Do look out for this every week – as you know, we like to be super busy and offer lots of lovely enrichment and topic-based trips for the children.

PE/Performing Arts Days

PE and Performing Arts lessons will commence next week on the following days, each week, unless otherwise informed:

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

KS2 children in Cezanne class have PE days with the YEAR GROUP they are in as above. They will also have an additional PE session on a Friday morning – therefore 2 PE kit days for Cezanne class. Reception will start PE sessions on a Tuesday in a couple of weeks – do watch out for Miss Molly/Miss Kelly's newsletter to inform when. Please also find a letter attached from Mr. Brenta regarding kits and also giving information on a very exciting year last year – let's make this one even better!

Clubs/Arbor App

Monday after school enrichment clubs for Years 1-6 will be decided soon and we'll write to you when they are ready to sign up for the Autumn term. Most people will have made themselves familiar with our 'Arbor' app – do continue to familiarise yourselves with this as this is how we'll sign up for clubs/parents' evening bookings etc. More details to follow.

Hampstead Heath Field Trips

All children from Years 1-6 will visit Hampstead Heath in the next couple of weeks for their first Geography field trips of the year. Waterproof coats with hoods and water bottles required on these days please! Packed lunches will be provided by school. Do note next week:

- **Wednesday 10th September:** Year 3 attend Field trip in Hampstead Heath;
- **Friday 12th September:** Years 2 & 6 attend Field trip in Hampstead Heath.

NB: Tube strikes may be on the cards which might affect these trips to Hampstead Heath. We're hoping we'll still be able to attend, however they will be re-booked if possible as soon as we can.

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip – June 2026

By now we should have a final list of Year 6 children attending their Residential trip next June to Marchant's Hill in Surrey, with deposits paid. Many thanks for doing this before we broke up for the summer, allowing us to confirm with the centre for our booking. For the remaining payments, please find attached a step-by-step guide of how to use the Arbor app to settle any balances as you wish.

Term Dates/Holiday Requests

Please find this year's term dates here following the link below or attached to this e-mail.

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

You'll notice we have 3 INSET days in October, meaning an extended Autumn Half Term, breaking up on **Tuesday 21st October** and returning on **Monday 3rd November**. This is partly to break up the long Autumn term more and also as a way of suggesting that if anyone is considering time away soon to please book during this time and not in term time. While I'm really understanding regarding absence requests, we are put under increasing pressure not to grant any term-time absences when requested. Many schools have a two-week Autumn Half Term which I'd consider in the future should the dates allow. I'd be happy to hear any feedback on this, positively or negatively, should you have a strong view either way. The extended half term could in effect make any travel cheaper when booking.

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 5th October

We are incredibly excited again to announce that on Sunday 5th October, we will be taking part in Canada Water's 'Run Kids Run' event at Southwark Park running track. We will be joining children from other local schools who will be taking on the 1km/2km challenge to raise money for their schools and we need your support! We are raising money to continue our work on improving our outside learning spaces to benefit our children. 'Run Kids Run' has secured sponsorship from Art Invest, the developers of Canada Water Dockside, they are kick-starting the fundraising with a possible donation of £5,000, but we need your help. The more of our children that sign up to complete the 2km challenge the more of that donation we are entitled to. Please do save the date and encourage children to participate – further details on sponsorship and sign-ups will come soon.

Next Week

Field trips for Years 2, 3 & 6 (as above – hopefully un-affected by potential tube strikes!); PE Lessons to start; Violin lessons will soon recommence for all KS2 children on Mondays; Performing Arts lessons for Years 1-6 will recommence with Miss Hermione soon as well.

Friday 12th September 2025

It's great to see children fully immersed in their topics and showing super attitudes to their work during this, our first topic week of the academic year. All of our new starters have now joined us following soft transitions in Early Years and we look forward to new Nursery children starting in the next couple of weeks too! It is such a shame the tube strikes mean Years 2, 3 & 6 have to

postpone their Hampstead Heath Field Trips, however we've been reassured these will be re-scheduled.

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'zest' and we'll be focusing upon different character traits this half term – next week, the importance of 'self-control'.

Clubs/Arbor App

Please find attached a list of clubs which will be on offer each **Monday from 22nd September to 8th December for the Autumn term.** These will be available to sign up for using the Arbor app from Monday (15th September). Do have a chat with your child/ren over the weekend to see what they'd like to be involved with on a Monday after school...! Clubs are available for all children from Years 1-6.

KS2 Tennis Club – Tuesdays from 16th September

We have an additional opportunity for a club run by the National Tennis Association this term, starting next Tuesday. The after-school tennis club provides a fun and welcoming environment for all Year 3-6 pupils. Sessions focus on developing key tennis skills, improving footwork, balance, and coordination, and, most importantly, ensuring everyone has a great time!

Registration link can be found [here](#) or using the attachment. This must be booked and paid for directly – do note we can not manually make bookings for this as a school.

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Year 6 PGL Residential Trip – June 2026

By now we should have a final list of Year 6 children attending their Residential trip next June to Marchant's Hill in Surrey, with deposits paid. Many thanks for doing this before we broke up for the summer, allowing us to confirm with the centre for our booking. For the remaining payments, please find attached again a step-by-step guide of how to use the Arbor app to settle any balances as you wish.

Hampstead Heath Field Trips

Sadly, the tube strikes meant these field trips could not go ahead for Years 2, 3 & 6 as planned this week – these will be re-arranged for a later date in the term/year. Do note next week's trips on the following days which should go ahead as usual. Waterproof coats with hoods and water

bottles required on these days please! Packed lunches will be provided by school. Do note next week:

- **Tuesday 16th September:** Cezanne class Geography Field Trip to Hampstead Heath;
- **Wednesday 17th September:** Years 1 & 5 Geography Field Trip to Hampstead Heath;
- **Thursday 18th September:** Year 4 Geography Field Trip to Hampstead Heath.

PE/Performing Arts Days

Another reminder of PE and Performing Arts lesson days which commenced this week on the following days, each week, unless otherwise informed:

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

KS2 children in Cezanne class have PE days with the YEAR GROUP they are in as above. They will also have an additional PE session on a Friday morning – therefore 2 PE kit days for Cezanne class. Reception will start PE sessions on a Tuesday in a couple of weeks – do watch out for Miss Molly/Miss Kelly's newsletter to inform when.

England Netball

Last year, members of Year 4 were lucky enough to receive a visit from coaches from England Netball. They lead them in various drills that were recorded to create instructional videos as part of England Netball's online coaching resources. If you want to take a look at the amazing work they did the link [is here](#).

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's Family Lives newsletter should this be of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-sept25?e=82d627eec2>

Next Week

Field trips for Years 1, 4 & 5 and Cezanne class (as above); PE Lessons to continue; Violin lessons will recommence for all KS2 children on Mondays; Performing Arts lessons for Years 1-6 will recommence with Miss Hermione next week as well.

Friday 19th September 2025

Children are demonstrating lots of curiosity and zest and producing some super pieces of work. Cezanne class, Years 1, 4 & 5 all attended their Geography field trips to Hampstead Heath – again, dates for our postponed trips from last week will be advertised when we receive these.

We're busy booking future trips and events all the time – as usual, do keep checking the dates upon newsletters for the week as below and also the 'dates for your diaries' letter which is updated each week.

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'self-control' as part of our focus upon different character traits this half term – next week, the importance of 'grit' and resilience.

Clubs

Thanks for using the Arbor app to sign up for Monday after-school enrichment clubs which are available for all children from Years 1-6. These will commence on Monday (22nd September) until Monday 8th December for the Autumn term. Please collect children from the Main Entrance gate at Old Jamaica Road at 16:30 and from playground Entrance One at Alexis St at 16:15 on Monday and each week thereafter once clubs are up and running.

Reception Parent/Carer Coffee Morning

Next week on Tuesday (23rd September), all new (and existing!) Reception parents and carers are warmly invited for refreshments straight after school drop off at 09:00, to chat with Miss Molly, Miss Kelly and Mrs Brenta and to meet other parents and carers. We look forward to welcoming you all at OJR then.

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 5th October: PLEASE SIGN UP/REGISTER

Another reminder that on Sunday 5th October, we will be taking part in Canada Water's 'Run Kids Run' event at Southwark Park running track. We will be joining children from other local schools who will be taking on the 1km/2km challenge to raise money for our school and we need your support! We are raising money to continue our work on improving our outside learning spaces to benefit our children. 'Run Kids Run' has secured sponsorship from Art Invest, the developers of Canada Water Dockside, they are kick-starting the fundraising with a possible donation of £5,000. The more of our children that sign up to complete the 2km challenge the more of that donation we are entitled to. Please do register as soon as you can here:

<https://forms.gle/FaJ1RRLmvtmtW67V9> , alternatively you can follow the QR code on the attachment to this e-mail.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT!

Year 6 Secondary Schools Applications

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 6 child, we hope you are visiting secondary school open days and events with your children to see what is on offer for their secondary education. Mrs Brenta will be available on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October to assist with applications. You are welcome to call to make an appointment or contact via the office e-mail. Do remember – all applications need to be with Southwark Council by

31st October. We'd advise doing these before we break up for Autumn half term on 21st October as we won't be able to assist during the time we are away from school.

Harvest Service – Monday 6th October

As you'll see from the dates letter, we'll have our Harvest Festival service on the above date for Years 1-6. Please see the attached list for suggestions of things to donate if you can. As always, please don't buy much – things in cupboards/unused items at home are fine! Just send them in on the day and children can present to donate in church.

Friday 26th September 2025

Another great week of learning in school! Library visits have now started; we welcomed our new Reception parents and carers into school for a very well-attended Coffee Morning on Tuesday; Monday after-school enrichment clubs have now started and we're looking forward to celebrating European Day of Languages in school this afternoon – please see details below and an attachment from Miss Reid promoting a poster competition relating to this too.

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'grit' and resilience as part of our focus upon different character traits this half term. We've also explored the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah in line with the celebration this week and compared this to Islam and Christianity, thinking all about how different world faiths celebrate in both similar and different ways. Next week, the importance of 'curiosity'.

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 5th October: PLEASE SIGN UP/REGISTER

Another reminder that next Sunday (5th October), we will be taking part in Canada Water's 'Run Kids Run' event at Southwark Park running track. We will be joining children from other local schools who will be taking on the 1km/2km challenge to raise money for our school and we need your support! We are raising money to continue our work on improving our outside learning spaces to benefit our children. 'Run Kids Run' has secured sponsorship from Art Invest, the developers of Canada Water Dockside, they are kick-starting the fundraising with a possible donation of £5,000. The more of our children that sign up to complete the 2km challenge the more of that donation we are entitled to. Please do register here: <https://forms.gle/FaJ1RRLmvtmtW67V9> , alternatively you can follow the QR code on the attachment to this e-mail.

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Royal Parks Half Marathon 12th October 2025

Mr. Wood and Miss Hannaway are both running the Royal Parks half marathon on Sunday 12th October. Mr. Wood is running for the charity 'Power the Fight' which aims to tackle and end youth violence. Miss Hannaway is running for Diabetes UK for children, staff and members of our school community who live with Diabetes. If you'd like to support her, please do follow this link to her Just Giving page where you'll be able to make a donation: https://www.justgiving.com/page/niamh-hannaway-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL . She'd be very grateful for any support!

European Day of Languages Poster Competition

Following today's celebration of the above, Miss Reid has initiated a poster competition for all children with the theme: 'Languages open hearts and minds'. Have a look at the attachment for further details. Deadline for these to be entered is Friday 10th October.

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

It's that time of year again when we begin to welcome parents and carers for tours of our OJR site as we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Friday 3rd October, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Wednesday 15th October, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 6th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Wednesday 12th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 20th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

These are also included on the attached dates letter.

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Another reminder that if you are a parent/carer of a Year 6 child, Mrs Brenta will be available on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October to assist with applications. You are welcome to call to make an appointment or contact via the office e-mail. Do remember – all applications need to be with Southwark Council by 31st October. We'd advise doing these before we break up for Autumn half term on 21st October as we won't be able to assist during the time we are away from school.

Harvest Service – Monday 6th October, 09:30 in St. James's Church

As you'll see from the dates letter, we have our Harvest Festival service on the above date for Years 1-6. Please see the attached list for suggestions of things to donate if you can. As always, please don't buy anything/much – things in cupboards/unused items at home are fine! Just send them in on the day and children can present to donate in church.

Non- Uniform Day – Friday 10th October - Wear Something Yellow!

St. James' will be joining thousands of schools across the UK in support of 'YoungMinds' on Friday 10th October (World Mental Health Day) by taking part in 'Hello Yellow'. On this day, we will be having a non-uniform day and encouraging everyone to wear something yellow. By wearing yellow, we can help show support to those in need. 'YoungMinds' has resources for parents and carers to find help and advice if they're ever concerned about a child or young person. You can find more information on their website:

www.youngminds.org.uk/parent . We're not asking for any donations for this day, just a reminder that 'together, we stand brighter'!

Year 2 Multi-Sports Morning – Extra PE Kit Day

Children in Year 2 will be working with coaches from the London PE Network in school on Monday (29th September). Please send Year 2 in wearing PE kits on Monday in addition to their usual day of Thursday. Many thanks!

Groundwork Parent/Carer Coffee Morning Monday 13th October, 09:30 @ OJR

On Monday 13th October, Groundworks will be hosting a coffee morning at OJR at 09:30. Groundworks and the Mental Health Support Team are Southwark-based and have worked with us for over a year supporting with social and emotional needs across the school. They are highly experienced and we are lucky enough for them to host this coffee morning on 'Understanding you child's emotions.' Do come along as there will be useful advice, tips and signposting to other support services. See the attached flier for more information.

Southwark Autism Support Team Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

Southwark's Autism Support Team (AST) are hosting a number of coffee mornings at different schools across the borough. These are supportive and informative sessions for parents who have a child diagnosed with autism. Please see the flier for the dates, and schools hosting, over this academic year and note we are hosting in March 2026!

Friday 3rd October 2025

We have held both Nursery and Reception tours; Year 2 took part in a 'Multi-skills' sports morning with the London PE Network; Year 6 attended their Junior Citizenship day at Downside Fisher; Years 2 and 5 have had fire safety talks from the London Fire Brigade and we're looking forward to marking National Poetry Day with performance poetry – our annual 'P-Factor' - this afternoon!

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'curiosity' as part of our focus upon different character traits this half term. Next week, the importance of 'gratitude' as we think about Harvest and how we can give to help others.

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 5th October

We're really looking forward to this event on Sunday (5th October)! The event will begin at 14:00 – do start to arrive from 13:30 where we will have a table set up with pupils' numbers etc to attach while they run. Do be reminded that while a few staff members will be there, children will need to be supervised by adults on the day. Running clothes/trainers and a water bottle should be all you'll need. Many thanks to Mr. Brenta for organising and a good number of staff members for attending on the day. Thanks also to you for your usual enthusiasm and support! You'll note we haven't asked for separate sponsorship for this event – we plan another running event in the spring term which we'll be asking for sponsorship for to help our school fund-raising instead.

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Southwark Flu Immunisations – Thursday 27th November

The NHS local team are coming in to school on Thursday 27th November for their annual nasal immunisation scheme. Please find an attachment with a QR code for registering your child/ren to have this administered in school – this must be completed ahead of the above date. If you'd like to have this sooner, please find another attachment with many different local options for catch-up sessions in and around the local area.

Harvest Service – Monday 6th October, 09:30 in St. James's Church

Our Harvest Festival service on Monday for Years 1-6. Please see the attached list for suggestions of things to donate if you can. As always, please don't buy anything/much – things in cupboards/unused items at home are fine! Just send them in on the day and children can present to donate in church.

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'Making it REAL' Early Literacy Programme

We are excited to share 'Making it REAL', designed to boost early literacy for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old (not in full time education/childcare setting) in Southwark! This would be for any children not in a nursery or reception setting - perhaps younger siblings of children attending our school. The programme offers:

- 4 fun interactive sessions in the child's home;
- Support for parents to develop their child's play and literacy skills;
- Visits from a trained Home-Start volunteer for up to an hour per session.

Parents can self-refer or be referred by a professional. You can find the application form here:

<https://www.homestartsouthwark.org.uk/real-programme> .

Please find a flier attached with further information.

Groundwork Parent/Carer Coffee Morning Monday 13th October, 09:30 @ OJR

A reminder that on Monday 13th October, Cara from Groundwork will be hosting a coffee morning at OJR at 09:30. This will have a focus on 'Understanding you child's emotions.' Do come along as there will be useful advice, tips and signposting to other support services. See the attached flier for more information.

FREE Half Term events with Southwark Family Learning

Half term is looming...! Please see attached flier with details of FREE half term events at Thomas Calton Centre, Peckham.

Friday 10th October 2025

We've continued to visit the library; violin, sports and performing arts sessions all continue to go well; Year 3 have been busy engaging in their Cycle Confident sessions at Alexis St; Year 6 attended Southwark Playhouse for a performance and workshop; Year 4 attended a 'frog life' nature workshop in the Alexis St orchard; Millwall football sessions and an additional football competition were attended and today we're all wearing yellow to mark World Mental Health Day and show our support for Young Minds. The biggest highlight was Sunday's 'Run, Canada Water, Run' event in Southwark Park. A HUGE turn out, meaning we're eligible for a very generous and helpful £5k worth of funding to help further develop our outside spaces. Thank you so much for your support!

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'gratitude' as we've thought about Harvest and how we can give to help others. We had a lovely service with Rev. Dom on Monday and are very grateful for all your generous donations to the Manna Centre which will be delivered in addition to items the church collects themselves.

Groundwork Parent/Carer Coffee Morning Monday 13th October, 09:30 @ OJR

A reminder that on Monday 13th October, Cara from Groundwork will be hosting a coffee morning at OJR at 09:30. This will have a focus on 'Understanding your child's emotions.' Do come along as there will be useful advice, tips and signposting to other support services. See the attached flier for more information.

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- Wednesday 12th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 20th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

Parent Gym Taster Session – Thursday 16th October, 09:00, OJR

Parent Gym will be returning to St. James' for a 6 week programme, covering Chat, Love, Behaviour, Together, Discover, Care. There will be a Taster Session at Old Jamaica Road, on Thursday 16th October, 09:00 – 10:00, with refreshments. Do come along and see what it is all about!. There is further information on the website: <https://parentgym.com> . We have run this programme many times here at St. James' and lots of our parents and carers have attended and benefitted both with new tips and ideas around parenting, and made many new friends. Mrs. Brenta will tell you more about this fantastic course at the taster session.

Southwark Flu Immunisations – Thursday 27th November

Another reminder that the NHS local team are coming in to school on Thursday 27th November for their annual nasal immunisation scheme. Please find an attachment with a QR code for registering your child/ren to have this administered in school – this must be completed ahead of the above date. If you'd like to have this sooner, please find another attachment with many different local options for catch-up sessions in and around the local area.

Fire Safety in the Home

After very informative recent visits from London Fire Brigade to our Year 2 and Year 5 children, they kindly left some important fire safety information for all households, which we are attaching for your information.

Friday 17th October 2025

A great final full week of this half term – lots of lovely learning and lots to celebrate! Parents have joined us for a Groundwork Coffee Morning, a Parent Gym taster session with Mrs Brenta, and continue to attend our Reception 2026 tours as detailed below. In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'social intelligence' and seen a great deal of this in action! Next week we'll look at Diwali and continue to think about links between Christianity and other world faiths.

Do note – we break up for an extended Autumn half term on Tuesday (21st October) at normal school finish times – 15:15 Alexis St/15:30 OJR. We will start back following the half term break on Monday 3rd November for Autumn term 2 at 08:45 Alexis St/09:00 OJR.



Term Dates 2026-2027

Please find our term dates for NEXT academic year, which we have published on the website, attached. Note a longer October half term again – this has had a positive impact on term-time holiday requests this term and we hope this continues to provide an alternative for any trips our families may wish to plan trips abroad.

PE Kit Days – Autumn Term 2

Please note revised PE days in Autumn Term 2 – in effect, just Wednesdays and Thursdays swapping, all other year groups remaining the same. Many thanks for sending children in wearing PE kits on these days from the first week back after half term:

- Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 3 & 5 (no change);
- Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2;
- Every Thursday: Years 4 & 6;
- Every Friday: Cezanne class (KS2) additional PE and 6 Leopold swimming from Friday 14th November.

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

Another reminder of imminent tours of our OJR site as we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Thursday 6th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
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- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

St. Anne's Baby Massage Course – Starting Weds 5th November

Vicar Katie has passed on some information on a Baby Massage course starting on Wednesday 5th November at St. Anne's church. All information can be found on the flier attached should this be of interest to you/someone in your family.

Parent Gym with Mrs Brenta

After a successful taster session this week, Parent Gym will begin its 6-week programme on Thursday 6th November. Mrs Brenta will be in the Alexis St House from 09:00 (with a light breakfast!) and the course will commence each week from 09:30-11.30. All are welcome. Even if you did not come to the taster session, it would be lovely to see you! If you need any more information on this inspirational programme, covering the joys and challenges of

parenthood, do get in touch. Session 1 on the above date is 'Chat 'How to listen so your child will Talk'. We hope to see you there!

Family Lives Newsletter

This month's Family Lives newsletter is available by following this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-oct25?e=82d627eec2>

Friday 7th November 2025

It's lovely to be back following our slightly extended Autumn half term and see all the children keen to start with new class books and topics! This week Year 6 have visited the imperial War Museum as part of their History topic; library visits have re-commenced; Reception took part in a lovely lantern-making workshop for Illuminate Rotherhithe; Years 1&2 took part in 'Germ Busters' hygiene workshops; Year 3 have engaged in excellent, practical road-safety sessions and today we're wearing blue in support of King's College and Evelina Diabetes support and the children and staff in our school who live with, and admirably manage, this condition – many thanks as always for your support for this and our other charitable endeavours over the next few weeks.

Our collective worship theme has focused around 'Optimism', positive thinking, and what this looks like in action. We considered with Rev Dom how David needed a great deal of optimism to defeat Goliath in the Old Testament.

Remembrance Service – Tuesday 11th November in St. James's Church, 11:00

Children from Year 1-6 will attend our Remembrance service in Church on Monday. All are welcome to attend this; do be mindful to be particularly prompt due to a 2-minute silence which will take place.

Children in Need Day – Friday 14th November

Remember next Friday is 'Children in Need' day and we always like to support this deserving cause as much as we can. Non-uniform/Pudsey-inspired outfits in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00. We'll also be having a talent show in school during the afternoon to mark this.

'One Day Creative' Anti-Bullying Week Workshops

Next week, children from Reception – Year 6 will take part in these valuable workshops, all of which promote kindness, empathy and social intelligence. Do speak to children about their learning after these and continue to support us in promoting our 'character traits' to our children.

PE Kit Days – Autumn Term 2

Another reminder of our slightly revised PE days in Autumn Term 2 – in effect, just Wednesdays and Thursdays swapping, all other year groups remaining the same. Many thanks for sending children in wearing PE kits on these days this half term:

- Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 3 & 5 (no change);
- Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2;
- Every Thursday: Years 4 & 6;
- Every Friday: Cezanne class (KS2) additional PE and 6 Leopold swimming from Friday 14th November – see separate e-mail regarding this.

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

Another reminder of continuing tours of our OJR site as we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Wednesday 12th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 20th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

Parents' Evening Bookings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Wednesday 19th November (Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2) and Wednesday 26th November (Years 3, 4, 5, 6 & Cezanne class). These are now open to book slots via the Arbor app, information was sent via a separate message. Do have a look and book a slot. If you're having any difficulty, do show us your app during drop-off/collection time or make contact and we can assist with this.

Southwark Independent Voice – Parents' Sessions

We've been informed by the local NHS team that Southwark Independent Voice (SIV) have a very important event this month in partnership with the NHS. The event will include medical professionals from Sunshine House and CAMHs to talk about Autism, ADHD and Restricted Eating. This is a FREE event and is for parent carers of children and young people with SEND living in Southwark. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. This is a fantastic opportunity for families, please see the attached flier for further details.

All children from Reception – Year 6 taking part in 'One Day Creative' Anti-bullying week workshops next week at both sites.

Friday 14th November 2025

A busy, productive week – all children from Reception to Year 6 attended a moving Remembrance service on Tuesday with Vicar Katie and Rev Dom; Year 5 attended the National Maritime Museum as part of their History topic, all children have taken part in interactive workshops with 'One Day Creative' to promote kindness and empathy during Anti-Bullying Week and we're all supporting Children in Need and the amazing work they do with a non-uniform day and talent show this afternoon.

Our Collective Worship theme has focused on Remembrance and 'Inter-Faith', looking at other world religions and finding comparisons and differences with Christianity. Next week we'll continue to think about other major world religions.

PE Kit Days – Autumn Term 2

Yet another reminder of our slightly revised PE days in – in effect, just Wednesdays and Thursdays swapping, all other year groups remaining the same. Many thanks for sending children in wearing PE kits on these days this half term:

- Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 3 & 5 (no change);
- Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2;
- Every Thursday: Years 4 & 6;

- Every Friday: Cezanne class (KS2) additional PE and 6 Leopold swimming this half term.

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

Another reminder of continuing tours of our OJR site as we're holding a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Thursday 20th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

Playground Improvement Work

Old Jamaica Road parents and carers will notice we're in the process of having our playground equipment replaced and upgraded (sadly this was postponed as it should have been completed during half term). This has cost over £25,000 and money from school fundraising over the last 3 years has made this possible! We thank you all for your continued help and support as we raise money for valuable projects such as this. Thankfully this will be finished soon and isn't having a huge disruption to the children's learning or play.

Individual School Photos

Do note that next Wednesday, all children will have their individual photos taken at both sites. If you would like siblings to have photos taken together, please go to either site from 08:30 where we can accommodate this. If you are later to school on that day we of course understand. Children at different sites will not be able to have photos together during the school day as we won't be able to facilitate this. You will be given a QR code from which you'll be able to order these after Wednesday.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 21st November

Next Friday will also be a non-uniform day, in addition to the following week in exchange for a donation to our school fund. Please do give anything you can afford to enable us to save money for school/playground improvements.

Photographic Consent

As Christmas approaches, we have many events in school that we like to record. It is important that you have been able to express your wishes to school regarding photographic consent - whether you grant or decline permission for us to take your child/ren's photo and potentially use it on our school webpage or Instagram account. We have found that within our school community, this is an enjoyable way of celebrating the many achievements during the school day. Thank you to those of you who have already filled in the 2025 consent request by logging onto the Arbor parent app. For those that

have not, a notification has been sent this week and we urge you to let us know your wishes so that we can act accordingly during the festive season. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held next Wednesday - 19th November – for Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2 and Wednesday 26th November (Years 3, 4, 5, 6 & Cezanne class). These are now open to book slots via the Arbor app, information was sent via a separate message. Do have a look and book a slot. If you're having any difficulty, do show us your app during drop-off/collection time or make contact and we can assist with this. Do note that both parents' evenings are to be held in the Old Jamaica Road site hall.

London Attractions for £1.00

A parent has kindly informed us about a wonderful scheme if you currently receive Universal Credit. A number of top London attractions are available for a £1.00 entry fee, all bookable on-line, including the State rooms at Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Tower Bridge and many more! (Some attractions may cost a little more, up to £3.00). For more information follow this link (other websites are available): <https://kiddoadventures.com/2025/09/22/cheap-days-out-for-people-on-universal-credit-2024-update/> . Some attractions are also available if you are a Blue Light Card holder:

<https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/en> (education staff can also apply).

Family Lives Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-nov25?e=82d627eec2>

Parent Gym and ESOL Parent Courses (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Although we are two weeks into the Parent Gym programme, you are still very welcome to join! Also, we're pleased that the ESOL course will start on Tuesday 18th November, 09:30 at Alexis Street. Please contact Mrs Brenta for further information if you're interested in either of these opportunities.

Friday 21st November 2026

Another busy week full of super achievements and great learning from the children. We've conducted Nursery and Reception tours, individual photos were taken on Wednesday and will be available to buy online and be delivered to school before long and we have a non-uniform day and Bake Sale at Alexis St today in support of our school fund where we are starting to save again for further playground development projects. Our sincere thanks to you for your generous support!

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to be based around 'Inter-Faith', looking at other world religions and finding comparisons and differences with Christianity. Next week we'll begin to think about Advent.

Parents' Evenings

Our Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2 Parents' Evening was very well-attended on Wednesday. Next Wednesday (26th November) will be for Years 3, 4, 5, 6 & Cezanne class. This is open to book slots via the Arbor app, information was sent via a separate message. Do have a look and book a slot. If you're having any difficulty, do show us your app during drop-off/collection time or make contact and we can assist with this. Do note that all parents' evenings are held in the Old Jamaica Road site hall.

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

Usual reminder of two further tours of our OJR site for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Thursday 27th November, Old Jamaica Road at 09:30;
- Thursday 4th December Old Jamaica Road at 09:30.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 28th November

Next Friday will also be a non-uniform day, in exchange for further donations to our school fund/playground improvements. Please do give anything you can afford to enable us to save money for school/playground improvements.

'Messy Church' Larder Tree Event – Friday 28th November

Please find attached a flier for St. James's Church's next Messy Church event on Friday 28th November. We are taking part in the Big Local Advent Calendar trail and hoping families will come and make decorations for the tree.

Photographic Consent

Another reminder that it is important that you have been able to express your wishes to school regarding photographic consent - whether you grant or decline permission for us to take your child/ren's photo and potentially use it on our website or Instagram account. Thank you to those of you who have already filled in the 2025 consent request by logging onto the Arbor parent app. For those that have not, a notification has been sent this week and we urge you to let us know your wishes so that we can act accordingly during the festive season. Thank you.

Mr. Oliver's/St. James's 'Walk for Shelter' 10km

Last year we managed to raise over £500.00 for the homeless charity Shelter by joining a 10km 'walk for Shelter'. I'll be doing this again on Tuesday 2nd December. If anyone can spare anything at all towards my modest target, a link to my fundraising page can be found here:

<https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/michaeloliver-68eea4bdc0e7b6e9c24194dd?edit=page>

Events Next Week – please also note the ‘dates for your diaries’ letter which has been updated with several events this week. *Do check for all those events leading up to Christmas/the end of term which we don’t want you to miss...!*

Friday 28th November 2025

Lots of super Art work and learning which we hope to show off in our Open Evening next week. Many thanks again for your generous contributions towards our school fund and playground development for today’s, and last week’s, non-uniform days.

Our Collective Worship theme has begun to focus on Advent, what this means when preparing for Christmas, and considering Advent traditions around the globe.

Open Evening – Wednesday 3rd December, after school at both sites

Thanks again to all who joined for our parents’ evenings recently. Next week is an opportunity for you to see children’s environments and books in situ. Do come into school at the end of the day (until 17:45 at the latest) where children will lead you to environments to show you their learning. Teachers will be around, however do be mindful they will be working etc so won’t be able to spend too long talking about individuals – that was the purpose of our parents’ evenings. Do say hello however!

Reception 2026-2027 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

A reminder of our final tour of our OJR site for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2026. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, on Thursday 4th December, Old Jamaica Road, at 09:30 for this.

‘Crazy Hair’/Non-Uniform Day – Friday 5th December

Remember next Friday is our ever popular annual ‘Crazy Hair’ and non-uniform day in support of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Get creative with crazy hair styles in exchange for fundraising for this very deserving cause. Please do bear in mind children in 6 Leopold will still be swimming on this day so do avoid colours in possible!

Assessment Week

A quieter week in school next week as we assess the children in comfortable environments where we always just encourage them to do their very best and show us all they know. Please do tell them the same – assessments are such a valuable way of us planning what we need to teach the children in the following terms. We’re so proud of all our children and their unique talents; we’re sure they’ll impress us as usual with their super attitudes to learning next week!

'Messy Church' Larder Tree Event – After School This Evening

Please find attached a flier for St. James's Church's next Messy Church event later on today. We are taking part in the Big Local Advent Calendar trail and hoping families will come and make decorations for the tree.

Photographic Consent

Another reminder that it is important that you have been able to express your wishes to school regarding photographic consent - whether you grant or decline permission for us to take your child/ren's photo and potentially use it on our website or Instagram account. Thank you to those of you who have already filled in the 2025 consent request by logging onto the Arbor parent app. For those that have not, a notification has been sent this week and we urge you to let us know your wishes so that we can act accordingly during the festive season. Thank you.

Mr. Oliver's/St. James's 'Walk for Shelter' 10km

Last year we managed to raise over £500.00 for the homeless charity Shelter by joining a 10km 'walk for Shelter'. I'll be doing this again on Tuesday (2nd December). If anyone can spare anything at all towards my modest target, here's a link to my fundraising page:

<https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/michaeloliver-68eea4bdc0e7b6e9c24194dd?edit=page>

Macai Construction Christmas Card Competition

Our friends at Macai Construction are once again holding a Christmas colouring competition, the winners will receive very generous vouchers (£250!) for bike and helmet, one for KS1 and one for KS2. All children should have come home with a template. Please encourage them to design a bright and colourful drawing for a Christmas card, taking pride in their work, as they will all be displayed in Macai's window on Jamaica Road. The winner will be announced on our Christmas Jumper Day (Friday December 12th), all entries should be in school by Friday December 5th.

ESOL Parents' Course

Our ESOL (English as a second/other language) course is taking place at Alexis St on Tuesday afternoons, from 1pm-3pm. If you wish to learn English, or improve your English skills you will be very welcome. Call Mrs. Brenta for further details.

Musical Mayhem

We have been very lucky to have had Musical Mayhem in school giving some of our children a free trial of a Musical Mayhem class. Please see the link below if you are

interested in your children attending. Classes are £14, but they do collect the children from school and take them to the class (Years 3-6 only). The classes are on Fridays at the Appleby Blue development on Southwark Park Road.

<https://musicalmayhem.org/theatre-academy/> .

Friday 5th December 2025

Another busy and productive week; children worked really hard with their assessments and have been busy learning French and PSHE this week. It was super to see so many parents and carers in attendance on Wednesday's Open Evening! Many thanks for donations today in support of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and for such amazing hair styles on display!

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on Advent, looking at John the Baptist and Jesus's birth foretold.

Year 1 Christmas Stall Event – Tuesday 9th December

Please find a flier attached from Miss Sheikh and Ms Emedeme advertising a Christmas stall event after school on Tuesday. Year 1 parents and carers, do join us via the usual gate and come in for this. Year 1 are raising money for a special trip later in the year and would love your support!

Whole School 'Big Book' Reading Event – Thursday 11th December

We are very pleased to invite you, along with your child/ren to our OJR site on Thursday 11th December for a Reading with your child event in the OJR Hall. All year groups are welcome – children in KS2 can be dropped to Alexis St later and not receive a late mark in the register. Miss Hannaway will be there with advice on Reading at home and there will be books to take away in addition to reading card packs to promote reading for pleasure. Please see a separate letter attached with more information and we hope to see many of you in attendance, sharing books and reading for pleasure next Thursday!

Christmas Jumper/Festive Non-Uniform Day – Friday 12th December

Remember next Friday is our Christmas Jumper/festive non-uniform day. No donations are asked for this, just a chance for the children to be festive before our final week of term!

Mr. Oliver's/St. James's 'Walk for Shelter' 10km Many thanks for your support with this – collectively we managed to raise £470.00 for the amazing work Shelter does!

Southwark's Winter of Food and Fun Programme – Christmas Holidays

Please find attached a letter and a flier from Southwark Council advertising their

'Winter of Food and Fun' programme during the Christmas holidays. This is available to all children aged 4-16 and eligible for Pupil Premium funding in Southwark from Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026 (excluding weekends and bank holidays). All the information you need can be found upon the attachments.

Mission Christmas Gift Collection – Alexis St Casey's Mummy (a Year 4 parent) is very kindly promoting and collecting any unwanted toys/gifts on behalf of the organisation 'Mission Christmas' and is appealing for help with this. She will be collecting any donations from Alexis St on Wednesday 18th December. If you are able to donate, please find a list of suggested items via this link:

<https://cashforkids.org.uk/mission-christmas/>

and deliver to Alexis St office area before the date above. She has requested that any donations be wrapped. Many thanks if you'd like to support her with this. More information can be found on the website link above.

Friday 12th December 2025

A busy, productive and joyful week as we prepare for our final week of the term. Children are rehearsing for next week's nativities and carol events; Year 1 had a very well attended Christmas stall event on Tuesday; many attended our 'Big Book' event on Thursday and our library and swimming visits have now finished for the term.

Our Collective Worship theme has continued to focus on Advent, looking at the birth of Jesus from the perspective of all involved.

Reception Christmas Stall Event – Thursday 18th December

Please find a flier attached from Miss Molly and Miss Kelly advertising a Christmas stall event after school on Thursday. Reception parents and carers, do join us via the usual gate and come in for this. Like Year 1 this week, Reception are raising money for a special trip or class event later in the year and would love your support!

Southwark's Winter of Food and Fun Programme

Please find attached a letter and a flier from Southwark Council advertising their 'Winter of Food and Fun' programme during the Christmas holidays. This is available to all children aged 4-16 and eligible for Pupil Premium funding in Southwark from Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026 (excluding weekends and bank holidays). All the information you need can be found upon the attachments.

Mission Christmas Gift Collection – Alexis St

Casey's Mummy (a Year 4 parent) is very kindly promoting and collecting any unwanted toys/gifts on behalf of the organisation 'Mission Christmas' and is appealing for help with this. She will be collecting any donations from Alexis St on Wednesday 18th December. If you are able to donate, please find a list of suggested items via this link: <https://cashforkids.org.uk/mission-christmas/> and deliver to Alexis St office area before the date above. She has requested that any donations be wrapped. Many thanks if you'd like to support her with this. More information can be found on the website link above.

Nativity/Concert Costume Help

Many thanks to those of you who have already brought in items for costumes for next week's various events – please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have missed these requests in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2.

ALL children from Years 3-6 just need smart school uniform next Thursday for our Carol Concert (no PE kits on this day). Full school uniform also for next Friday – our final day of term. Many thanks!

Southwark Tigers Girls' Rugby Event

Southwark Tigers are hosting a rugby event for Year 4 - 6 girls. It promises to be a really fun morning and have lots of prizes and RFU giveaways. It will take place on Saturday 13th December, 10:00 – 12:00, on the grass pitches at Burgess Park - SE5 0JB. It's a nationwide RFU initiative to engage with girls on the back of the amazing Red Roses World Cup Victory earlier in the year. To sign up, see here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e3d1e86b1c274ee482c0e8b587684fb4>

Southwark Flu Immunisation Catch-up Session

Please find a flier attached advertising a flu catch-up session should this be of interest to you and your child/ren missed this in school. This will be on Saturday 20th December, details upon the attachment.

Macai Christmas Card Competition

Thank you for all of the wonderful entries - all on display at their offices on Jamaica Road. The winners will be announced during next week's end of term service. Well done to everyone who entered, it was a very difficult decision for Macai to judge. The winners of course receive bike and helmet vouchers to the value of £250. Our thanks go to Macai Construction for their wonderful generosity.

Christmas Holidays

For suggestions of free and budget family things to do in London over Christmas, see here: <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/christmas/budget-christmas-in-london>

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow the link for this month's Family Lives Newsletter - lots of Christmas advice: <https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-dec25?e=82d627ecc2>

Friday 19th December 2025

A lovely, festive final week of the Autumn term, highlights of course being those wonderful performances and services where many parents and carers joined us. We complete the term with a service in church this morning. Do remember, we break up at 13:15 (Alexis St) and 13:30 (Old Jamaica Road) today and return on Monday 5th January 2026 at the normal school times.

PE Kit Days – Spring Term 1

Please note the same PE days in Spring Term 1. Many thanks for sending children in wearing PE kits on these days from the first week back after Christmas:

- Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 3 & 5 (no change);
- Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2 (no change);
- Every Thursday: Years 4 & 6 (no change);
- Every Friday: Cezanne class (KS2) additional PE and 5 Ofili swimming from Friday 16th January (more information to follow).

Southwark's Winter of Food and Fun Programme

Please find attached again a letter and a flier from Southwark Council advertising their 'Winter of Food and Fun' programme during the Christmas holidays. This is available to all children aged 4-16 and eligible for Pupil Premium funding in Southwark from **Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026** (excluding weekends and bank holidays). All the information you need can be found upon the attachments.

Southwark Flu Immunisation Catch-up Session

Please find a flier attached advertising a flu catch-up session should this be of interest to you and your child/ren missed this in school. This will be tomorrow, details upon attachment.

Christmas Holidays

For suggestions of free and budget family things to do in London over Christmas, see here:

<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/christmas/budget-christmas-in-london>

Wishing you and our whole community a wonderful Christmas holiday filled with peace and joy – we look forward to seeing you all in 2026! ☺

God bless,
from the St. James' team.

