

Dear Parents & Carers,

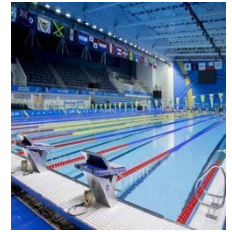
## **Newsletter - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We've hit the ground running with a lovely (if a little cold!) first week back of the Spring term. We had a Welcome Back service with Rev Dom on Monday, Year 4 attended the Natural History Museum on Wednesday and PE and Performing Arts lessons have all recommenced for the term.

Our Collective Worship theme of 'Communication' has begun for this half term, looking at people of the Testament with Abraham and Moses and how God communicated with them.

### **Year 5 Ofili Swimming Sessions at Downside Fisher**

From next Friday (16<sup>th</sup> January), 5 Ofili will be going swimming to Downside Fisher every Friday morning until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please find attached a letter from Mr. Brenta with details of this and what to bring each week.



### **Year 1 Girls 'EmpowerHer' Monday PE Sessions**

From Monday (12<sup>th</sup> January), and each Monday this half term, Year 1 girls will be taking part in extra PE sessions in addition to their normal PE day. These sessions are with the London PE Network and are designed to encourage confidence and promote a love of sport for our young ladies. Please send Year 1 girls into school wearing PE kits on this additional day for the rest of the half term.



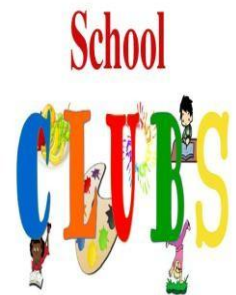
### **Year 5&6 'Young Voices' Event at the O2 Arena**

Years 5&6 parents and carers should by now have received information regarding the 'Young Voices' event on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – we're thrilled to be taking part! Apologies for the late notice of this, we have been awaiting confirmation of our participation and numbers taking part. Please see the letter re-attached to this email for your information. We hope all children from Year 5&6 can attend on the day and into the evening.



### **Monday After-school Enrichment Clubs – Years 1-6, Spring Term**

Please find attached our offer of clubs each Monday over both sites for the Spring term. Clubs to commence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January and end on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March for the Spring term (except Mr. Brenta's sports clubs due to light and matches/competitions etc). Do please sign up for these as usual via our Arbor App or contact the office should you need any assistance. You will be able to sign up for these once they are live on the Arbor app – on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January after 09:00.



### Southwark Flu Immunisation Catch-up Session

Please find a flier attached with a list of up-coming community clinics for pupils who have missed your schools flu clinic. Pupils from Southwark can attend any of the clinics on the list.



catch-up  
session(s).  
attached

### Soundsteps Music School

Please see the attached flier from Soundsteps Music School, who are offering a free taster session in a local venue.



### PE Kit Days – Spring Term 1

Many thanks for sending children in wearing PE kits on these days until Easter:



- Every Monday: Year 1 girls only, extra day for PE kits please for their 'EmpowerHer' sessions with the PE Network until half term;
- 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 16<sup>th</sup> January (more information attached).

### ESOL

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course will resume on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 13.30, at Alexis Street. If you would like to join in, please do come along - there are places available and we would love to see you! Refreshments available.



### Newsletter – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

A busy and productive week as we settle into the Spring term – children across both key stages have been enthused and involved with Science learning this week and shown terrific zest with this. Year 1 Girls have begun their 'Empower Her' Monday PE sessions for this half term, Year 5 Ofili begin with their swimming lessons today, Year 3 attended a trip to Mudchute Farm on Wednesday as part of their topic learning and violin, performing arts and PE lessons all continue to go really well too.

Our Collective Worship theme of 'Communication' has continued, looking at people this week from the New Testament with Jesus's Baptism and Paul and how God communicated with them.

### Year 4 Times Table Check

Year 4 parents/carers are invited to join Mr Brooksbank at Alexis either Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 09:00 or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 15:15 more about how we teach times tables at St James' and what is of pupils ahead of the times table tests Year 4 pupils undertake. This opportunity to get support and advice on how we can help children their tables at home; do join us at one of the sessions.

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6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	6
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	8
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		



Street on to find out expected is a great practice

### Year 5&6 'Young Voices' Event at the O2 Arena

Do be reminded of our Young Voices event at the O2 next Tuesday – the letter is attached again with all relevant information. Some parents and carers have e-mailed us to let us know their child cannot attend, this is fine and we understand due to the late finish. Those children will be together in school for the afternoon. If your child cannot attend, please do let us know by Monday at the latest so we can make provision to stay in school and be collected/sent home at the normal school time. Many thanks to some parents who are joining us for this – do come to Alexis St for 11:45 on Tuesday to join us for the day and evening. Do remember our request for a packed lunch too please – we will provide one for every child, however another will be needed for the evening break.

### Monday After-school Enrichment Clubs – Years 1-6, Spring Term

Many thanks for signing children up for our Monday after-school clubs using the Arbor app. These will start on Monday (19<sup>th</sup> Jan) and run until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March for the term. Please collect children after these from the playground entrance at Alexis St at 16:15, or the Main Entrance to OJR at 16:30.



### PE – Gymnastics

This term, all children from Years 1 - 6 will be taking part in gymnastics during their PE lessons. For safety and hygiene reasons, children will be asked to remove their shoes and socks for these sessions. Working barefoot allows for better grip on the apparatus and floor, reduces the risk of slipping, and helps children move with greater control and confidence. It also helps us keep the equipment cleaner for everyone. If your child has a medical reason that means they cannot remove their socks, please do speak to Mr. Brenta directly. In these cases, children are welcome to wear socks with grip on the soles so they can still participate safely. Many thanks for your support.



### Parent Gym

The current Parent Gym programme has just finished, and Mrs Brenta wanted to say how much she has enjoyed delivering it - meeting parents and sharing tips and hints on the hardest job in the world - being a parent! The next programme will run after Easter, with the taster session just before we break up in March. Watch out for further details, but if you are interested do let Mrs Brenta know and she will add your name to the list.



## **Road Safety Alexis St**

We have noticed vehicles accessing Linsey Street (via Alexis St) and parking outside the gates while waiting for the children. Please be reminded this is a School Street - with no vehicle access (unless a resident or Blue Badge holder) between 08:30 -09:00 and again at 15:00-15:30. This is designated a School Street for the safety of all our children. Please park nearby and walk the remaining distance if car travel is absolutely essential. There are ANPR cameras at the entrance and you may be fined (unless a blue badge or are a resident with a permit).



## **Road Safety Old Jamaica Road**

Please do not park outside the main gates or on the yellow zig zags at Old Jamaica Road, these areas should to be kept clear at all times, primarily for the safety of all our children. We are very proud to have GOLD for sustainable travel, and we have to reapply this year. Unfortunately, unless we can sustain the road safety at both sites, we will not be eligible to remain a GOLD school. This would be really sad, having been 'gold' for 8 years now, and having worked really hard on our sustainable travel. Activities we benefit from include Cycle Confident, Learn to Ride, Balance Bike training, Fix a Bike scheme, which would be at risk of not being offered if we do not retain our gold status. Your co-operation is appreciated!

## **Family Lives Newsletter**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-jan26?e=82d627eec2>

## **Newsletter – 23rd January 2026**

Another busy week – children have continued to be enthused with their Science learning; Year 1 Girls have continued with their 'Empower Her' Monday PE sessions; Year 5 Ofili continue with their swimming lessons; Monday clubs have begun and the main highlight was Years 5 & 6 attending the O2 on Tuesday for their 'Young Voices' concert, where they were part of a choir of 8,000 children! The children performed brilliantly and represented St. James' wonderfully on the day. Many thanks to the parents who joined us! Do check our Instagram account for some snaps and videos.

Our Collective Worship theme of 'Communication' has continued, looking at and thinking about prayer as a way of communicating with God.

**Year 4 Times Table Check**

Year 4 parents/carers are invited to join Mr Brooksbank Street on either Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 09:00 or Tuesday February at 15:15 to find out more about how we teach tables at St James' and what is expected of pupils ahead of table tests Year 4 pupils undertake. This is a great opportunity to get support and advice on how we can children practice their tables at home; do join us at one of sessions.

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**Year 1 Tombola/Fundraising Event – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Miss Sheikh and Ms Emedeme are holding another fundraising event for a special trip for Year 1 in the term. Do join them outside the Year 1 classrooms then there will be a cake stall and tombola. Please see the attachment for further details. Many thanks for your



**January**  
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**Stretto Music School Interactive Music Classes**

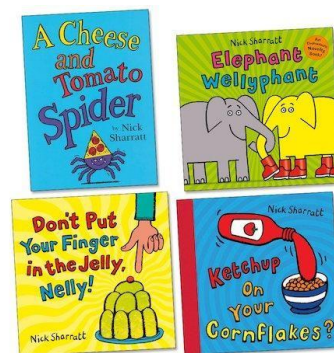
Stretto music school deliver our violin lessons to all in Key Stage 2 and have sent a flier with information local interactive music classes to babies and toddlers. the attachment for local Friday sessions should this be of interest to you or anyone you might know.



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Please see

**Nick Sharratt Author/Illustrator Visit**

We're delighted to be welcoming author/illustrator Nick Sharratt to Old Jamaica Road on Thursday afternoon for a special assembly and workshop for Reception, Years 1 & 2. He is perhaps best known for illustrating Jacqueline Wilson books however has written many of his own and illustrated with many other authors too. We're really looking forward to what we're sure will be a very exciting and inspiring afternoon, always promoting a love of books and reading for pleasure!



**Attendance/Punctuality**

A large and growing number of children are consistently late for school, and we have been monitoring this since our return after the Christmas holidays. We are in the process of inviting some parents in to discuss ways we can help, often reasons like 'couldn't find my shoes' or 'alarm did not go off' are given. Mrs Brenta will be running Parent Gym again soon, with lots of hints and tips about routines and preparation for school - she would love to have parents there to share tips! Do ask her to add your name to the list if you feel like you need some help or support. For example, one day recently, 36 children were late, with a total of 18 hours of learning time missed on that one morning. Please do be

reminded of our start times, 08:45 at KS2 (Alexis St) and 09:00 at KS1 (OJR). The gates are open for 10-15 minutes after these times and children will receive a 'late' mark on the register if in after this. All attendance marks can be viewed on the Arbor app so you can see at a glance lates and absences.

### **Parent Gym**

A reminder that the next 'Parent Gym' programme will run after Easter, with the taster session just before we break up in March. Watch out for further details, but if you are interested do let Mrs Brenta know and she will add your name to the list.



### **Newsletter – 30th January 2026**

Yet another busy and productive week – children have produced some amazing things with their Design Technology learning; Year 1 Girls have continued with their 'Empower Her' Monday PE sessions; Monday clubs continue to be enjoyed and attended by many; Reception attended the Natural History museum on Wednesday and Key Stage One children had a super visit and assembly with author/illustrator Nick Sharratt at OJR.

Our Collective Worship theme of 'Communication' has continued, looking at and thinking about prayer and meditation/mindfulness as a way of communicating with God.

**Year 4 Times Table Check**

After our first meeting, Year 4 parents/carers are warmly invited and encouraged to join Mr Brooksbank at Alexis Street on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 15:15 to find out more about how we teach times tables at St James' and what is expected of pupils ahead of the times table tests Year 4 pupils undertake. This is a great opportunity to get support and advice on how we can help children practice their tables at home; do join us if you can!

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		

**Non-Uniform Day Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February for Leukaemia Care**

Next Friday (6<sup>th</sup> February), we will be holding a non-day to help support Miss Hannaway, who will be the Paris Marathon in aid of Leukaemia Care. Children to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for donation. Donations can be made in school on Friday or online via the fundraising link provided below. All contributions will go towards supporting Miss Hannaway's marathon journey and fundraising efforts amazing challenge.

<https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/cr-n86wo1rw0ld8l>



uniform running are invited a small morning

for this

**5 Ofili Swimming Sessions**

Sadly Downside Fisher have advised us they have had to close the pool temporarily due to an issue with it and have had to cancel swimming lessons temporarily. It is likely swimming may not go ahead next week; we hope to at least make the final session of the half term.

**Attendance/Punctuality**

Another reminder that a large and growing number of are consistently late for school, and we have been monitoring this since our return after the Christmas Please do be reminded of our start times, 08:45 at KS2 and 09:00 at KS1 (OJR). The gates are open for 10-15 after these times and children will receive a 'late' mark register if in after this. All attendance marks can be the Arbor app so you can see at a glance lates and



children

holidays. (Alexis St) minutes on the viewed on absences.

### **Harris Academy Football Coaching Sessions**

Please find a flier attached for local football coaching sessions on weekends or during holidays run at Harris Academy, Bermondsey.

### **Southwark Family Learning Half term Activities**

Please see the flier attached for FREE half term activities from Southwark Family Learning during February half term.

### **Free 11+ preparation and KS2 learning**

We work in partnership with [Atom Learning](#), the leading online Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation platform, to provide children in Years 3-6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium with free Atom Home accounts (Atom Home is normally £575.90 per year). Atom Home provides Key Stage 2 learning resources, helping children build exam technique, subject mastery and academic confidence. If your child is aged between 7 - 11 (Years 3-6) and has been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (please check with the school office if you are not sure), you would be eligible for free use of this - please go to the Parent page on our website for further information.



### **Newsletter – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Children have been busy with their French and PSHE learning this week – in addition, 6 Leopold have attended HSBC in Canary Wharf for an art exhibition and careers day and Reception children had eye tests in school on Wednesday from the school nursing team.

Our Collective Worship theme of ‘Communication’ has continued, looking at the way Jesus communicated with his disciples, the children he met, and the Widow, as a way of communicating with God.

**Remember – we break up for Spring half term for a week next Friday – 13<sup>th</sup> February – at the normal school times. We look forward to the children’s return after a week away on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for Spring term 2!**

### **Mental Health Week/Non-Uniform Day - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**2026** This year, to mark Children’s Mental Health Week, we will have a non-uniform day with the theme ‘Express Yourself’ next Friday. Students are encouraged to wear outfits that reflect their personalities and individuality! No contributions/money necessary for this. Cara and Anna – our ‘Groundworks’ Mental Health team, will also be delivering assemblies next week to our Key Stage Two children promoting positive mental health. Many thanks to Miss Rudd and them for organising this and activities in school to mark this week. Years 4, 5 & 6 will also be taking part in ‘Flag Football’ sessions during the day so trainers and loose clothing are encouraged!



### **Communication/Arbor App**

We are delighted that 95% of our parents have logged onto James' Arbor parent app to update their details, book evenings, enrichment clubs, residential trips, wraparound OJR and view their child's online logins and attendance stats. planning to utilise the apps' messaging feature and for that to important that you turn on app notifications for the Arbor your device. We will then be able to 'ping' important information to you without incurring costs which will make significant difference to our budgeting. You will receive a star on the app to alert there is a message waiting for you. If it's not read within a set period, the same message will be forwarded to your email, ensuring that no message is missed. Please do support us in making this change to our communications with you a success by turning on your app notifications as soon as possible. Many thanks.



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message waiting for you. If it's not read within a set period, the same message will be forwarded to your email, ensuring that no message is missed. Please do support us in making this change to our communications with you a success by turning on your app notifications as soon as possible. Many thanks.

### **Half-Term Tennis Camps in Southwark**

Looking for an exciting activity this half-term? Sign up for our Tennis Camps in local parks! Open to 5–10-year-olds, these fun-filled sessions are perfect for beginners and young players to learn tennis skills, stay active, and make new friends. Don't miss out! Dates & Booking: [Click here](#) to sign up. Flier attached for further information.



### **Half Term Films at the Garden Cinema**

The Garden Cinema hosts family film screenings every Saturday & Sunday morning, and on weekdays during the school holidays. The screenings are 'Pay What You Can', which means you're free to pay as much or as little as you can afford. On Sundays the films are followed by free fun and creative activities for children. Upcoming films include the Frozen, Fantasia and The Tigger Movie. Full Details can be found here (or on the attached flier):

<https://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/season/films-for-the-family>



### **Southwark Family Learning Half term Activities**

Please see the flier attached for FREE half term activities from Southwark Family Learning during February half term.



### **Miss Hannaway Paris Marathon for Leukaemia Care**

A reminder, if you are able, there is still time to support Miss Hannaway following the link below. Contributions will go towards supporting Miss Hannaway's marathon journey and fundraising efforts for this deserving cause.

<https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/cr-n86wo1rw0ld8l>

Leukaemia Care  
YOUR Blood Cancer Charity

[www.leukaemiacare.org.uk](http://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk)

### **Newsletter – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Children have been enthused and absorbed with their RE learning during this final week of Spring term 1 – in addition, all Year 2 children have now attended trips to the Garden Museum as part of their topic learning, Year 1 girls have finished their 'Empower Her' extra PE sessions,

children at KS2 have had special assemblies delivered by Groundworks, our Mental Health support team, Years 4-6 are taking part in Flag Football sessions today at Alexis St and it's great to see children expressing themselves with our non-uniform day today to mark Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

Our Collective Worship theme of 'Communication' has concluded, this week looking at different ways to reflect upon and apply this theme to our lives with some fun and interactive Collective Worship opportunities.

**Remember – we break up for Spring half term for a week today at the normal school times. We look forward to the children's return after a week away on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for Spring term 2!**

### **PE Kit Days – Spring Term 2**

Please note slightly different days for children's PE/Performing Arts lessons next half term – do send children in wearing PE kits on the following days:

- Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 5 & 6; • Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2;
- Every Thursday: Years 3 & 4.



### **Years 4,5 & 6 Flag Football Club**

We're delighted to be able to offer a new 'Flag Football' club each Wednesday after half term! The BIGKID Flag Football After-school Club introduces students to American football while emphasising teamwork, physical activity, and skill development. Children will learn basic skills like throwing and catching in a safe environment. Flag football is a non-contact version of American football similar to tag rugby. It is an excellent way for children to gain a sense of achievement and is an inclusive sport for building positive associations with sport and physical activity. To register your interest in the club scan the QR code in the flier attached or follow this link: [\*\*SIGN UP HERE!\*\*](#)

**Dates:** Wednesday 25th February - Wednesday 25th March;

**Cost:** £6 per session (£30 total for Spring term 2);

**Times:** 3:30pm - 4:30pm;

Available to all children in years 4, 5 & 6 - maximum 20 spots - first come first served.



### **A Message From Miss Hannaway**

*"Dear Parents and Carers, A big thank you for all your support towards fundraising for my marathon journey in Paris this April for the charity Leukaemia Care. We raised over £,300 both online and in the collection on the day, helping me raise nearly half of my total amount. I can't thank you enough for this. Here's hoping all this support will get me through those 42kms! Thanks again, Miss Hannaway."*

### **Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign**

We are doing well with the Tesco tokens collection - we have checked a few of the Tesco stores listed and we always have the most tokens; thank you! A reminder to collect the BLUE tokens when you shop at Tesco and put them in the collection point for St James' School. If you are not offered a token, please do ask a member of staff - you do NOT need to purchase a carrier bag to receive a token. Below are the stores where you will find our collection point. If you shop at any other Tesco, please still collect the token and bring them in for Mrs Brenta, who will take them to one of the participating stores: *Surrey Quays Extra SE16 7LL, Bermondsey Express SE16 4BA, Peckham High Street Express SE15 5BS, East Dulwich Express SE22 9BD, Peckham Express SE5 7EJ, Walworth Road Express SE17 1JE, Peckham Rye Lane Express SE15 4UR, Queens Road Peckham Express SE15 2ND, Bermondsey Park Express SE16 3RP, Camberwell Express SE17 2NF, Camberwell North Road Express SE5 0RW, Marine Wharf, Deptford Express SE16 7UD.*

### **East Egg Tombola**

Save the dates! On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March (KS2) and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March (KS1), we will again be holding Easter Egg Tombolas. If you are shopping over half term and see Easter Eggs on offer now would be a good time to buy ready for the own clothes day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March when children can wear their own clothes in exchange for an Easter Egg. Even better if you buy them in Tesco and collect a token too!



### **Family Lives Newsletter**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-feb26?e=82d627eec2>

### **Newsletter –27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

It's great to be back following Spring half term – children have hit the ground running with new books and topics and have been focusing their attention on their History learning this week. Practitioners from King's College continue to visit for medical workshops with the children, library visits have re-commenced, our Year 6 Scholar's Programme students attended their graduation at UCL, and Music, PE and Performing Arts lessons all continue to go well too.

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term will look at the Gospel according to Mark, discussing Jesus's life in the run up to Easter. This week we've looked at John the Baptist and how Jesus encouraged his disciples to follow and help him in his work.

### **Early Years Parent Workshop – Tuesday 3rd March, 09:15, Old Jamaica Road**

We are pleased to invite Nursery and Reception parents/carers to a workshop on Tuesday 3rd March at 09:15 focusing on supporting early language and literacy at home, delivered in partnership with Southwark Family Hub as part of their 'Making it Real' programme. This workshop will explore how everyday activities can be used to support your child's early language and literacy development. We will share practical, easy-to-use strategies linked to books, oral

language, mark-making and environmental print, helping you build learning naturally into your daily routines. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **World Book Day – Friday 6th March**

We always look forward to seeing the children dress up as their favourite literary characters for World Book Day. We will mark this next Friday and actively encourage all children to dress up in as imaginative/home-made costume as possible! We'll be doing activities in school to mark this too. Children will also have a visit from Author/Illustrator Clara Vulliamy who will deliver workshops and assemblies on the day.

### **PE Kit Days – Spring Term 2**

Please be reminded of our slightly different days for children's PE/Performing Arts lessons this half term – do send children in wearing PE kits on the following days: • Every Tuesday: Reception, Years 5 & 6; • Every Wednesday: Years 1 & 2; • Every Thursday: Years 3 & 4.

### **Wassail at The Blue, Saturday 28th February**

Please see attached leaflet for an event this weekend with Rouel Blue Garden Club should this be of interest.

### **Easter Egg Tombolas Save the dates!**

On Tuesday 24th March (KS2) and Wednesday 25th March (KS1), we will again be holding Easter Egg Tombolas. If you see Easter Eggs on offer now would be a good time to buy ready for the own clothes day on Friday 13th March when children can wear their own clothes in exchange for an Easter Egg. Even better if you buy them in Tesco and collect a token too.

### **Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign**

Another reminder of our Tesco tokens collection - we have checked a few of the Tesco stores listed and we always have the most tokens; thank you! A reminder to collect the BLUE tokens when you shop at Tesco and put them in the collection point for St James' School. If you are not offered a token, please do ask a member of staff - you do NOT need to purchase a carrier bag to receive a token. Below are the stores where you will find our collection point. If you shop at any other Tesco, please still collect the token and bring them in for Mrs Brenta, who will take them to one of the participating stores:

Surrey Quays Extra SE16 7LL, Bermondsey Express SE16 4BA, Peckham High Street Express SE15 5BS, East Dulwich Express SE22 9BD, Peckham Express SE5 7EJ, Walworth Road Express SE17 1JE, Peckham Rye Lane Express SE15 4UR, Queens Road Peckham Express SE15 2ND, Bermondsey Park Express SE16 3RP, Camberwell Express SE17 2NF, Camberwell North Road Express SE5 0RW, Marine Wharf, Deptford Express SE16 7UD.

### **Newsletter – 6th March 2026**

A lovely week in school – all children have used the same picture book 'Hike' to create a shared story and illustrations which we'll have published in the form of big books at both sites. It's

wonderful to welcome author/illustrator Clara Vulliamy into school today to deliver assemblies to all children at our OJR site. It's also wonderful to see such great enthusiasm with a super range of costumes on display!

We've had some very well-attended coffee mornings/parent workshops and tours this week too – great to see everyone who was in attendance for these.

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term continues with the Gospel according to Mark, discussing Jesus's life in the run up to Easter. This week we've looked at Jesus as a healer, some of the parables he told, and also one of his miracles – the Feeding of the 5,000.

### **Easter Egg Tombolas – Non-Uniform Day Friday 13th March**

On Tuesday 24th March (KS2) and Wednesday 25th March (KS1), we will again be holding Easter Egg Tombolas. If you see Easter Eggs on offer now would be a good time to buy ready for the own clothes day on Friday 13th March when children can wear their own clothes in exchange for an Easter Egg. Even better if you buy them in Tesco and collect a token too!

### **Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March 2026**

We're always thrilled to support this very deserving cause – as per the dates letter, do note we will be having a non-uniform/wear red day on Friday 20th March and will be marking this in school. Donations gratefully accepted, suggested donation of £1.00, so we can continue to be proud of our charitable giving in school.

### **Newsletter – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

This week children have been visiting our STEM Fair and have enjoyed learning all things science-related. Many thanks to Miss Rozier for setting this up for us. Years 1&2 attended a trip to the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday to see and engage with a concert delivered by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and 6 Leopold engaged in a medical and first aid workshop in school delivered by practitioners from King's College. Many thanks for sending in Easter Egg donations today for our tombolas in exchange for non-uniform. If you haven't and would like to, you can always send one in next week instead.

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term continues with the Gospel according to Mark, discussing Jesus's life in the lead up to Easter. This week we've looked at the transfiguration, Jesus & the children, and how we can serve others.

### **Monday After-school Clubs – Spring Term**

Please note that next Monday, 16th March will be the FINAL DAY of Monday after-school enrichment clubs for the Spring term. We'll have new clubs on offer after Easter for the Summer term and will let you know when these are ready to sign up for via the Arbor app in advance. Wraparound care will continue as normal, however do note in advance there will be no after school club provision on Friday 27th March due to our early finish on that day.

### **Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March 2026**

We're always thrilled to support this very deserving cause – as per the dates letter, do note we will be having a non-uniform/wear red day on Friday 20th March and will be marking this in school. Donations gratefully accepted, suggested donation of £1.00, so we can continue to be proud of our charitable giving in school.

### **Year 5 Parent/Carer Secondary School Meeting – Wednesday 18th March, 14:30, Alexis St**

Parents and carers of current Year 5 children are invited to come and talk to Mrs Brenta and me next Wednesday at 14:30, Alexis St to discuss secondary school applications before Year 6. Some information can be found here and the page will be updated after the meeting:  
<https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/page/?title=Secondary+School+Information&pid=81>

### **Parent Gym (NOT an exercise class!) Taster Session Thursday 19th March**

Parenting is a really hard job - but also the BEST job! Together we share tips and hints on parenting. The Taster session for the next Parent Gym programme will be on Thursday 19th March, at OJR, straight from drop off. Mrs Brenta is really excited to be delivering this programme and warmly invite you to the taster session so you can have a feel for the programme starting after the Easter holidays. Please see Mrs Brenta for any more information, otherwise we look forward to welcoming you to OJR, on Thursday. For further details, do visit:  
<https://parentgym.arlo.co/courses/10-parentgym?e=0d3d8a4ef687407dbd0bd3df7fe13baf>

### **Millwall Tickets – Saturday 29th March**

Millwall Lionesses are offering free tickets for children to their upcoming fixture vs Sutton Utd at The Den, John Berylson Wy, London SE16 3LN, on Sunday 29th March, 13:30 kick off. Our very own St. James' girl's football team will also be joining the Lionesses on the pitch as part of their pre-match Guard of Honour, so come down and cheer them on! Free ticket sign-up link for families:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VNkLs6b8ebOu6fJqCulcAFqb8tGvOecLsFhmuIxa8A/edit>

### **Family Lives Newsletter**

Please follow link to this month's Family Lives Newsletter:  
<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-mar26?e=82d627eec2> SEND

### **Reform Parent Consultation Session – SIAS**

Please find attached a flier regarding the SEND Reform Consultation from SIAS. This is designed for parents and carers with children with SEND. Time, date and location of the meeting can all be found on the attachment.

## **Newsletter – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

All children have been working really hard and showing lots of zest and grit with their assessments – a huge ‘well done’ to them all for showing us all they’ve learned so far this academic year! They have also been concentrating on Relationship & Health Education and French. Library visits have continued, practitioners from King’s College have continued to visit for medical/first aid workshops and we’ve invited parents/carers into school for Groundworks Coffee Morning, a Year 5 Secondary school meeting and Mrs Brenta held her Parent Gym taster session yesterday. Year 1 are attending an exciting Cinema trip today too! Many thanks for sending in contributions so we can support Comic Relief/Red Nose Day today.

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term continued with the Gospel according to Mark, discussing Jesus’s life in the lead up to Easter. This week we’ve looked at Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper. This term’s worship will conclude with our Easter end of term service next Friday (27<sup>th</sup> March) at 09:30 in St. James’s Church. All are warmly welcome to attend this.

We break up next Friday at 13:15 (Alexis St/KS2) and 13:30 (OJR/EYFS & KS1). Do be reminded there is no after-school club provision at either site on this final day of the Spring term.

### **Year 3&4 Production Next Week**

We’re very excited to be presenting our Year 3&4 production to you on Wednesday and Thursday next week! All performances will be in the Old Jamiaca Road Hall. These will be on both days at 14:00 with an additional evening performance on Wednesday at 18:00.

On this day, please collect children at the usual school time and bring them back to OJR for 17:45 ready for the performance. If children use JAG after-school club, do make contact and we can always walk the children to OJR to be ready for the show. All we’re asking you for is PLAIN BLACK clothing, t-shirt/trousers etc, and we’ll make things to wear as costumes in school – please have these in on Monday in a named carrier bag. The children sound great in rehearsals, I’m sure you’ll enjoy coming to see them. We don’t have tickets, please just choose a performance to attend and be there on time. We always manage to accommodate audiences, do be considerate of each other and sit to fill up rows when you enter.

### **Easter Egg Tombolas On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March (KS2) and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March (KS1)**

Mrs Brenta will be holding Easter Egg Tombolas. These will be in the playgrounds at either site at the end of the school day. Do bring some change to enter these and potentially win an egg on offer ready for Easter.

### **Southwark Easter of Food and Fun Programme**

Please find attached a letter and also a brochure advertising Southwark’s holiday programme this Easter. This is available to all children in receipt of Free School Meals in the borough. The

Easter Food and Fun programme will be running between Monday 30th March and Friday 10th April 2026. The booking platform is now open at <https://eequ.org/southwarkfoodandfun>.

### **Harris Academy Bermondsey Football Camps – Easter Holidays**

Please find a flier attached offering football camps during the holidays locally should these be of interest.

### **NTA Junior Tennis Camp**

These Easter Tennis Camps give children the chance to stay active, make friends and enjoy a fun day of tennis, games and team challenges during the holidays. Each day includes tennis coaching, match play and mini-competitions, delivered by LTA qualified coaches in a friendly and inclusive environment. Camps are suitable for beginners through to more experienced players. Parents can find more information and book places here. Please also see the flier attached.

### **National Tennis Association After-School Tennis Club**

Back by popular demand, NTA are again offering after-school tennis clubs during the Summer term. These are a fun and engaging way for children in Years 3–6 to get active, improve their tennis skills, and make new friends. Players will work on key shots, footwork, balance, and coordination, all in a friendly and supportive school environment, with sessions tailored to their age group. Tuesday 14th April - 19th May (6 weeks), 3:15pm - 4:15pm, Alexis St playground, Cost: £36 (£6 per session). Due to such high interest we are now running two separate clubs please see the registration links: Years 3–4 / Years 5–6

### **Parent Gym**

Thank you to those parents who came along to the taster session. It's not too late to join. We will start the 6-week programme on Thursday 16th April, 9am, at Alexis St, with a tasty breakfast. If you have any questions, please do see Mrs Brenta. All are welcome! The first session, 'Chat' - how to listen when your child speaks, followed by Love, Behave, Care, Discover and Together. See you there!

### **Newsletter – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Lots of lovely RE learning this week as we come to the end of the Spring term and look forward to the Easter Holidays! Our Year 3&4 production was super – many thanks to Miss Hermione and teachers for rehearsing and making sure this came together so well. Thanks for supporting further fundraising efforts with our Easter Egg tombolas at both sites. We are all attending an end of term Easter service in Church today to finish the term.

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term continued with the Gospel according to Mark, discussing Jesus's life in the lead up to Easter. This week we've looked at Jesus's crucifixion and events leading to this. ***We break up today at 13:15 (Alexis St/KS2) and 13:30 (OJR/EYFS & KS1). Do be reminded there is no after-school club provision at either site on this final day of the Spring term.***

### **Things to do in London over the Easter Holidays!**

Please see an attachment with lots of ideas for Easter Holiday activities across London. Hopefully you'll find this useful; many thanks to one mum who has signposted many free/affordable activities for those in receipt of certain benefits.

### **Whole School 'Big Book' Reading Event – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

We are very pleased to invite you, along with your child/ren to our OJR site on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 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. We had a similar event before Christmas which was very well-attended; we hope to see lots of you there!

### **Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings**

Summer term Parents' Evenings are scheduled for April - see details below and as per our 'dates for your diaries' letter. These 10-minute meetings with your child/ren's teacher/s will be bookable from the second day of the new Summer Term i.e. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 09:00 via your Arbor parent app and will remain available until 17:00 on the day of the consultation. If you have any issues regarding the booking of these, please contact the school office where Mrs Fox and Miss Ashby will be pleased to help you.

- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Parents' Evening in the OJR hall;
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Key Stage Two (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 and Cezanne class) Parents' Evening in the OJR hall.

### **Clubs**

Our Monday after-school enrichment clubs finished for the Spring term last week. After teachers have decided upon new clubs to offer, I'll let you know and give notice to sign up for these via the Arbor app as usual once we're back from the Easter Holidays.

### **National Tennis Association After-School Tennis Club**

Another reminder that the NTA are again offering after-school tennis clubs during the Summer term. These are a fun and engaging way for children in Years 3–6 to get active, improve their tennis skills, and make new friends. Players will work on key shots, footwork, balance, and coordination, all in a friendly and supportive school environment, with sessions tailored to their age group. **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - 19<sup>th</sup> May (6 weeks), 3:15pm - 4:15pm, Alexis St playground, Cost: £36 (£6 per session).** Due to such high interest we are now running two separate clubs please see the registration links: [Years 3–4](#) / [Years 5–6](#)

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**Cultural Diversity Day Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2026**

Please find a flier attached (designed by one of our children) to note the date of this year's 'Cultural Diversity' Day! On this day children are invited to wear clothes/costumes which reflect their cultures/identities. We will also be welcoming parents/carers/families into the Alexis St playground after school for a celebration together.

*Wishing you and our whole community a wonderful, happy and safe Easter Holiday! We thank you as always for your support, kindness and healthy working partnerships as we finish for the Spring term ☺*

God bless,  
from the St. James' team.

