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 vist 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.stjamesschoolbermondsey.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 rescheduled.

In our Collective Worship this week, we've been discussing 'zest' and we'll be focusing upon different character traits this helf 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.

'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 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 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 16 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 helf 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 helf 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.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT!

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 work 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.

Year 6 Secondary Schools Applications

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 helf 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.

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:

- 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.

Year 6 Secondary Schools Applications

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. 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.

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.

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'!

‘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.

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:

- 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.

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 nformation 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;
- 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.

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 admirabl 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 weekin 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 attractins 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-peopleon-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-newsletternov25?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 anyting at all towards my modest target, a link to my fundraising page can be found here:
https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/michaeloliver68eea4bdc0e7b6e9c24194dd?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 anyting at all towards my modest target, here's a link to my fundraising page:
https://walkforhome.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/michaeloliver68eea4bdc0e7b6e9c24194dd?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/budgetchristmas-in-london

Family Lives Newsletter
Please follow the link for this month's Family Lives Newsletter - lots of Christimas advice:
https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletterdec25?e=82d627eec2

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.

Dear Parents & Carers,

9th 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 f Testament with Abraham and Moses and how God communicated with them.

Year 5 Ofili Swimming Sessions at Downside Fisher

From next Friday (16th January), 5 Ofili will be going swimming to Downside Fisher every Friday morning until Friday 13th 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 (12th 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 20th 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 19th January and end on Monday 16th 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 12th January after 09:00.

Southwark Flu Immunisation Catch-up Session

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

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
  16th January (more information attached).

ESOL

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course will resume on Tuesday 13th 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.

16th 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 Street on either Tuesday 27th January at 09:00 or Tuesday 3rd 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 at one of the sessions.

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 (19th Jan) and run until Monday 16th 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

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 at Alexis Street on either Tuesday 27th January at 09:00 or Tuesday 3rd 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 at one of the sessions.

Year 1 Tombola/Fundraising Event – Tuesday 27th January

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

Stretto Music School Interactive Music Classes

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

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.

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 3rd 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!

Non-Uniform Day Friday 6th February for Leukaemia Care

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

https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/crn86wo1rw0ld8l

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 children are consistently late for school, and we have been monitoring this since our return after the Christmas holidays. 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.

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.

6th 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 – 13th February – at the normal school times. We look for ward to the children's return after a week away on Monday 23rd February for Spring term 2!

Mental Health Week/Non-Uniform Day - Friday 13th 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 the St. James' Arbor parent app to update their details, book parents' evenings, enrichment clubs, residential trips, wraparound care at OJR and view their child's online logins and attendance stats. We are planning to utilise the apps' messaging feature and for that to work it is

important that you turn on app notifications for the Arbor app on your device. We will then be able to 'ping' important

information to you without incurring costs which will make a

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.

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

13th 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 23rd 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 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 24th March (KS2) and Wednesday 25th 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 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!

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

27th 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 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.

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.

13th 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.stjamesschoolbermondsey.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/edi t

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.

20th 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 (27th 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 24th March (KS2) and Wednesday 25th 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!

27th 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 14th April

We are very pleased to invite you, along with your child/ren to our OJR site on Tuesday 14th 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 14th 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 22nd April: Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Parents' Evening in the OJR hall;
- Wednesday 29th April: Key Stage Two 9Years 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 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!

Cultural Diversity Day Thursday 21st 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.

Friday 17th April 2026

We've had a great first week of the Summer term – children have started with their Shakespeare plays and learning ahead of next week's Shakespeare week in addition to Geography topic work. We had a lovely welcome back service in church on Monday led by Rev. Dom and a great book event for parents and children on Tuesday – many thanks for attending this!

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term has started with stories from Acts, what we can learn from these and apply to our lives. This theme will continue this half term.

Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

Summer term Parents' Evenings begin next Wednesday. These 10-minute meetings with your child/ren's teacher/s are now bookable 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.

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Friday 22nd May 2026

A happy, productive, and busy final week of the half term! Years 3&4 performed in a wonderful violin recital on Monday; Years 1&2 gave a lovely summer performance with songs, dances, and poetry linked to their current topic learning on Tuesday and Wednesday; Year 1 attended a trip to the London Transport Museum; our Year 5 children continued with their 'Mini-Police' citizenship course with a trip to London Bridge; Year 6 took part in a 'Fix-a-bike' day, and our Cultural Diversity day saw great, diverse outfits on display as well as a lovely after school event at Alexis St yesterday. Many thanks to Miss Reid for organising this and to many parents and carers for preparing and bringing a range of dishes for all to enjoy!

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term has concluded with stories from Acts, what we can learn from these and apply to our lives. Next term we'll further explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. **We look forward to seeing everyone back, on time, and raring to go for summer term 2 on Monday 1st June at 08:45 (Alexis St) and 09:00 (Old Jamaica Road).**

Class Photos

Children are having their photos taken in their classes on Tuesday 2nd June – full school uniform as usual please. QR codes will come home after if you would like to purchase these.

Year 5 'Joy of Movement' Sessions with Millwall

In addition to Swimming sessions and usual PE days, can Year 5 wear PE Kits and trainers each Monday after half term – they will be participating in 'Joy of Movement' sessions with Millwall, promoting fitness, sports and a healthy lifestyle.

St. James's Church 'Toast' After School Every Wednesday

Please find a flier attached advertising weekly 'Toast' sessions at St. James's Church. Pop along to church each Wednesday with your children to meet Katie and Dom, spend time with one another as a community and get to know the church team and each other. This will happen each Wednesday during term time and promises a weekly hangout for children and parents.

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After School KS2 Tennis Club – Tuesdays at Alexis St

The after-school tennis club at St James School offers pupils in Years 3–6 a fun and active opportunity to develop their tennis skills in a supportive and engaging environment. Sessions will include movement and coordination work, rallying, gamebased play, and technical coaching designed to build confidence, enjoyment, and ability in tennis. Please see the flier attached for this club with information and a link to book.

Wishing you, and our whole community, a happy, healthy and safe half term break! We look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 1st June for the final half term of the academic year ☺

God bless, from the St. James' team.

Friday 17th April 2026

We've had a great first week of the Summer term – children have started with their Shakespeare plays and learning ahead of next week's Shakespeare week in addition to Geography topic work. We had a lovely welcome back service in church on Monday led by Rev. Dom and a great book event for parents and children on Tuesday – many thanks for attending this!

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or scoot to school and we have 6 Year 5 Travel Ambassadors who are actively campaigning for this! They have delivered assemblies, organised a competition and prizes and are very passionate about active travel. Their motto is 'Ditch the car, it's not far!' Which is very apt as the majority of our families all live very locally and close to school and are lucky enough to be able to use active travel. PLEASE encourage your children to Walk/Cycle/Scoot for the whole week next week. Our Travel Ambassadors will be checking!

Friday 22nd May 2026

A happy, productive, and busy final week of the half term! Years 3&4 performed in a wonderful violin recital on Monday; Years 1&2 gave a lovely summer performance with songs, dances, and poetry linked to their current topic learning on Tuesday and Wednesday; Year 1 attended a trip to the London Transport Museum; our Year 5 children continued with their 'Mini-Police' citizenship course with a trip to London Bridge; Year 6 took part in a 'Fix-a-bike' day, and our Cultural Diversity day saw great, diverse outfits on display as well as a lovely after school event at Alexis St yesterday. Many thanks to Miss Reid for organising this and to many parents and carers for preparing and bringing a range of dishes for all to enjoy!

Our Collective Worship theme for this half term has concluded with stories from Acts, what we can learn from these and apply to our lives. Next term we'll further explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. **We look forward to seeing everyone back, on time, and raring to go for summer term 2 on Monday 1st June at 08:45 (Alexis St) and 09:00 (Old Jamaica Road).**

Class Photos

Children are having their photos taken in their classes on Tuesday 2nd June – full school uniform as usual please. QR codes will come home after if you would like to purchase these.

Year 5 'Joy of Movement' Sessions with Millwall

In addition to Swimming sessions and usual PE days, can Year 5 wear PE Kits and trainers each Monday after half term – they will be participating in 'Joy of Movement' sessions with Millwall, promoting fitness, sports and a healthy lifestyle.

St. James's Church 'Toast' After School Every Wednesday

Please find a flier attached advertising weekly 'Toast' sessions at St. James's Church. Pop along to church each Wednesday with your children to meet Katie and Dom, spend time with one another as a community and get to know the church team and each other. This will happen each Wednesday during term time and promises a weekly hangout for children and parents.

Swimming Summer Term 2

Please see a separate letter detailing swimming lessons for both 5 Turner and 6 Hockney classes next half term. 5 Turner were sadly let down with Friday bookings this half term, however we're thrilled to be able to take them next half term each Monday. Do note the change of day!

After School KS2 Tennis Club – Tuesdays at Alexis St

The after-school tennis club at St James School offers pupils in Years 3–6 a fun and active opportunity to develop their tennis skills in a supportive and engaging environment. Sessions will include movement and coordination work, rallying, gamebased play, and technical coaching designed to build confidence, enjoyment, and ability in tennis. Please see the flier attached for this club with information and a link to book.

Wishing you, and our whole community, a happy, healthy and safe half term break! We look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 1st June for the final half term of the academic year ☺

Friday 5th June 2026

It's great to see the children back for the final half term of the academic year! This week has seen some super History learning in action; class photos were taken; 5 Turner and 6 Hockney began their swimming sessions for the term; Year 5 started with their Millwall 'Joy of Movement' sessions; Year 6 took part in Cycle Confident sessions and clubs have re-commenced which will end on Monday 6th July for the year. 4 Kahlo also attended Southwark Park Gallery to help display their recent lovely artwork with a local artist – further details below regarding the grand opening next Monday which parents and carers are invited to! Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us begin to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Loving to Learn!'.

Class Photos

Children had their class photos taken on Tuesday – QR codes should have come home so you can view these and purchase if you wish. We'll let you know/send home with children when they arrive to school should you choose that option for delivery.

Kahlo Southwark Park Art Exhibition

Earlier this term, Year 4 Kahlo took part in an Art Workshop organised by Southwark Park Gallery, led by artist Tabitha Weddell. The children explored themes of nature and place, creating individual clay pieces that have been brought together to form a large-scale nature world map which will be on display at Southwark Park Gallery. We are delighted to invite parents and carers to a special preview event on Monday - 8th June - from 14:30 to 15:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the children's work on display and celebrate their creativity and hard work. Parents and carers who attend are welcome to take their child home directly from the gallery at the end of the event. Children whose parents or carers are unable to attend will be accompanied back to school by staff and are expected to return by approximately 16:00 – PLEASE NOTE

THE LATER FINISH TIME ON MONDAY! We hope you can join us for this special occasion.

Year 3 & 5 Change of PE Kit Day Next Week

Please note a swap of PE kit days NEXT WEEK ONLY to accommodate Year 3's trip to the British Museum on Thursday:

- Year 3 should wear PE kits to school on TUESDAY next week;
- Year 5 should wear PE kits to school on THURSDAY next week. Additional swimming and Joy of Movement sessions on Monday remain unchanged.
-

5th June 2026

Shout Out Youth Theatre and Sports Camp

Join Mr Brenta and Miss Jess for a fantastic week of sport and performing arts during the summer holidays. A week packed with games, challenges, singing, dancing, drama, and plenty of fun! 📅 Monday 20th July - Friday 24th July; ⏰ 9:00am - 2:00pm daily; Available to all Key Stage 2 children; 💷 £25 per day or book the full 5-day week for only £100! Whether your child loves being active, performing, or just having fun there is something for everyone! Places are limited, so, to register your interest, email: **soytcamp@gmail.com** now!

St. James's Church 'Toast' After School Every Wednesday

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'Mums for Lungs' Webinar

Mums for Lungs are running a webinar for parents unable to attend our coffee morning. Information and link to atend can be found here:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-air-pollution-insouthwark-tickets-1989542135083?utm_experiment=test

Friday 12th June 2026

A busy and productive week - this week has seen us produce great History learning; 5 Turner and 6 Hockney attended their swimming sessions; Year 5 started with their Millwall 'Joy of Movement' sessions; Year 3 attended the British Museum, and 4 Kahlo also attended Southwark Park Gallery with parents and carers to see on display their recent lovely artwork with a local artist.

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us continue to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Being Confident!'.

Shout Out Youth Theatre and Sports Camp

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'Mums for Lungs' Webinar

Introductory webinar on air pollution, Tuesday 16th June, 8:15pm. If you've ever wondered what the air on your street is doing to your family's health, Mums for Lungs is there to help you find out. Next Tuesday, 16th June, they're hosting a free introductory webinar about air pollution. Using Southwark in London as the starting point, they will explore what air pollution is, where it comes from, and what we can all do about it. Dr Chinthika Piyasena will speak about the health impacts of air pollution on children. There will also be practical tips for reducing your exposure to air pollution and a Q&A at the end. Tuesday 16th June, online at 8:15pm. Register below: **https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-air-pollution-in-southwarkand-beyond-tickets-1989542135083**

Friday 12th June 2026

Year 6 – PGL Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June

It's nearly time for our Year 6 residential which we're really looking forward to attending! Please find a kit list attached as a reminder of all the items to get ready to bring. As always, we suggest old clothes and trainers as activities may require mud etc!

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow the link below for this month's Family Lives newsletter:
https://mailchi.mp/coramfamilylives.org.uk/coram-family-livesnewsletter-may26?e=82d627eec2

Bede Summer Fair 2026 – Wednesday 24th June

The Bede Centre has asked us to share the attached flier for their summer fair. This is for parents/carers, as do note this is on Wednesday 24th June and the children will be in school at the time. Do have a look if you're interested.

Friday 19th June 2026

Another really busy and active week – swimming and Millwall sessions continue for Years

5&6; Year 4 attended the Salmon Centre for a sports activity day on Tuesday; Summer Reading Challenge assemblies were delivered to all; Years 5&6 had medical workshops with King's College Hospital; Year 6 took part in an excellent Careers' Day and we are holding a girls' football tournament at KS2 today!

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us continue to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Speaking and Listening'.

Year 6 – PGL Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June

We're really looking forward to this for those children joining us! Kit list is attached again FYI. Do bear in mind:

- Children to arrive at Alexis St at 08:30 (no earlier) on Monday where we will assemble for the coach outside the office entrance;
- We ask for ONE packed lunch to be provided for the first day. All other meals provided;
- No need for school uniform, children to come ready for activities;
- NO Mobiles/electronic devices including smart/Apple watches/valuables to be brought;
- Children may bring a maximum of £10, either cash or on a pre-payment card. If these are in wallets/named envelopes, we will look after money;
- Sleeping bag and pillow as per attached kit list;
- When we arrive back on Wednesday we'll contact you en route. We anticipate being back around 15:00 depending on traffic.

Sports Day – Friday 26th June, Southwark Park Athletics Track (Years R & 1-6)

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

are returning to school they may be a few minutes delayed due to our 15:15 finish time at Alexis St.

- Sleeping bag and pillow as per attached kit list;
- When we arrive back on Wednesday we'll contact you en route. We anticipate being back around 15:00 depending on traffic.

Year 2-3 Transition Parent Morning, Thursday 25th June

You'll see on the 'dates' letter that current Year 2 parents are invited to Alexis St to see the children's new environment in September. We have lots of opportunities for Year 2 to visit Alexis St before the Summer Holidays and this will be a lovely opportunity for you as parents to see our Alexis St site too. This will be from 09:30 on Thursday 25th June.

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Friday 26th June 2026

An exciting, fun-filled week with lots of sun – swimming and Millwall sessions continue for Years 5&6; our Year 5 children had their Mini-Police 'Passing Out' ceremony yesterday; our Year 6s had an amazing trip away to the Surrey Hills on their residential trip and we look forward to Sports Day today!

Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us continue to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Doing the right thing'.

Trips/Summer Weather

Uniform again from next week please – the forecast is looking cooler. Should temperatures creep up again we will make allowances as we have this week. Do remember to send in water bottles and to apply sun cream as we like to learn outside whenever possible at this time of year. We also have a few lovely trips on the horizon (see below and separate dates letter) so this is important on these days too.

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Summer Holiday Club at Christ Church, Peckham

Please see attached leaflet regarding a holiday club at Christ Church, Peckham should this be of interest to you.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow the link for this month's newsletter:

https://mailchi.mp/coramfamilylives.org.uk/coram-family-lives-newsletter-jun26?e=82d627eec2

ASSESSMENT WEEK for all children next week – as always, no pressure, just encourage children to try their very best for our end of year assessments!

Friday 3rd July 2026

Another busy week as we rapidly approach the long summer holidays! Millwall sessions continue with Year 5; swimming lessons have continued; Year 1 attended a Paddington experience trip and KS1 all attended the BST Festival trip to Hyde Park. Year 5 also had a super topic trip to the British Museum. We've also welcomed our new Reception children for September, along with parents, to have welcome meetings with Miss Molly. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us continue to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Showing kindness and respect'.

Arbor App Notifications

A reminder that although urgent, time-critical information, or of a personal nature, will continue to be sent to you via text, the majority of our information to parents is sent via notifications on the Arbor parent app. Please do make sure your notifications are turned on in the app settings on your device so you are aware when new information is sent through.

Trips/Summer Weather

Another reminder to send in water bottles and to apply sun cream as we like to learn outside whenever possible at this time of year. We also have a few lovely trips on the horizon (see below and separate dates letter) so this is important on these days too.

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Bermondsey Puppet and Story-telling Festival

Please find attached a flier advertising the final event of this which will happen on Sunday 12th July (details on flier). As part of this, we're very excited to have Ivana joining us next Wednesday to deliver art and story-telling sessions to Reception and Year 1.

Years 5&6 Summer Production – Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July

We're eagerly awaiting our Year 5&6 production next week! Do come to OJR at one of the four performances – 14:00 or 18:00 daily. We always have enough space but do ask you not to come to every production to ensure everyone gets to see it and to be considerate of fellow parents and family members in the audience. For evening shows, please have children back to OJR Ready to go from 17:45 each evening. There is no need to supply any additional items for costume unless asked individually – school tops/skirts/trousers should be worn and we'll add to these.

Friday 10th July 2026

Another really busy week as we approach the final week of this academic year! Our Year 5s and 6s performed with gusto in their end of year Summer production; Reception and Year 1 took part in super Art & Story-telling workshops; Years 3 & 4 attended the BST Festival in Hyde Park and our senior girls' football teams beat some of our staff in a football match on Tuesday 2-0! Today our Year 6 children attend their Southwark Cathedral Leavers' Service and are performing with the theme of 'Service' as they look forward to their next step. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has seen us continue to explore our school vision of 'Let your light shine' and our school aims and values with the children. This week – 'Values and Responsibility'.

Years 5&6 Violin Recital – Monday 13th July
Years 5 & 6 will perform their violin recital on Monday afternoon – we're really looking forward to hearing their progress from all their hard work in KS2. Do attend our Old Jamaica Road site on Monday for this ready to start at 14:00.

Reception Summer Production – Tuesday 14th July
Reception will perform their production on Tuesday next week, 14:00 in the Old Jamaica Road hall. We're looking forward to inviting Reception parents/carers and families to see them in their end of year show!

Nursery Graduation – Wednesday 15th July
Our Nursery children will have their graduation and end of year songs on Wednesday at 14:00 in the Old Jamaica Road hall next week. Parents/carers and families are warmly invited to attend this for their end of Nursery event as they head off to their next stage.

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Final day of this academic year:
Friday 17th July 2026
A busy final week of the academic year! Years 5&6 performed wonderfully in their Violin Recital on Monday, showing super progress; Reception children performed with great enthusiasm and confidence in their Summer Production on Tuesday; Nursery children had their graduation on Wednesday and we've all been busy preparing for the end of term in many different ways.

We're looking forward to our service at 11:00 where we say farewell to our Year 6s. This always provokes a mixture of excitement and sadness as we remember our time together. They performed brilliantly in their SATs and are ready to leave us for their next step. To them and anyone leaving us, we will miss you very much and send all our very best wishes.

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

Performance Data 2025-2026

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

Classes/Teachers September 2026

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

Term Dates 2026-2027

Do follow the link to our term dates for next academic year: https://www.stjamesschoolbermondsey.com/_site/data/files/documents/term%20dates/FB17472CF0608B4DB958A46D84457B00.pdf Children will be back to school on Wednesday 2nd September. Do note, we have a 2-week October half term next year – please, please do book any travel or holidays then if you can. We really need to have fewer term-time holiday requests!

Wishing you, our children, and our whole school community a wonderful, happy and safe Summer holiday!
We look forward to seeing all children back on Wednesday 2nd September at the usual school times.
God bless, from the St. James' team.