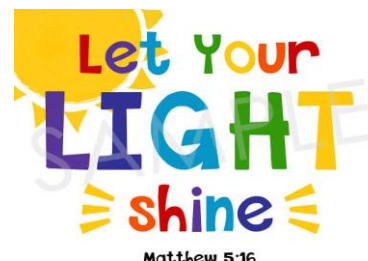


Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 4th September 2026

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, their deputies, and our Junior Faith Committee were announced.



Do note some important things as we start back for 2026-2027...

Dates for your Diaries

As always, we're busy booking trips and events and organising our calendar. Initial dates and information are included in this newsletter and a 'dates for your diaries' letter will be produced very soon for important events to have in advance.

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 4;
- **Wednesday:** Years 1 and 2;
- **Thursday:** Years 5 and 6.

KS2 children in Cezanne class have PE days with the YEAR GROUP they are in as above. Reception will start PE sessions on a Tuesday in a couple of weeks – do watch out for Miss Molly's newsletter to inform when. Please also find a letter attached from Mr. Brenta regarding kits.

Clubs/Arbor App

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

Hampstead Heath Field Trips

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



- **Thursday 10th September:** Year 6 attend Field trip in Hampstead Heath;
- **Friday 11th September:** Year 5 attend Field trip in Hampstead Heath.

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip – June 2027

Please find a letter attached regarding our Year 6 Residential trip to PGL, Marchant's Hill, Surrey next June. Deposits of £10.00 are required by Friday 18th September via the Arbor app to secure your child's place – alternatively, do make contact so you don't miss the deadline. We hope as many children as possible can join us for this and look forward to this opportunity for the children.



Term Dates/Holiday Requests

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

<https://www.stjamessschoolbermondsey.com/site/data/files/documents/term%20dates/FB17472CF0608B4DB958A46D84457B00.pdf>

You'll notice we have our 5 INSET days in October, meaning an extended Autumn Half Term, breaking up on **Friday 16th October** and returning on **Monday 2nd 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 continue to be really understanding regarding absence requests, we are put under increasing pressure not to grant any term-time absences when requested. Many schools have this two-week Autumn Half Term which seemed to be beneficial to many families last year. The extended half term could in effect make any travel cheaper when booking.

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 27th September

We are incredibly excited again to announce that on Sunday 27th September, 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. Please see flier attached.



Shout Out Youth Theatre

Miss Jess is returning with her Youth Theatre, the primary school age group being held on Wednesdays for children in Years 3 to 6 from 4:30pm-6:00pm, main hall, St James' CofE Primary School, Old Jamaica Road, KS1 site. Please find a flier attached with information and contact details for this.

Next Week

Field trips for Years 5 & 6; PE Lessons to start; Violin lessons will recommence for all KS2 children on Mondays; Performing Arts lessons for Years 1-6 will recommence with Miss Hermione as well.

Friday 11th September 2026

A busy and productive first full week of the academic year – children have started class books and topics and have been focusing their attention on Geography learning this week. Years 5&6 have attended field trips to Hampstead Heath; Years 2&5 have had fire

safety workshops with the London Fire Brigade as part of their PSHE learning; Year 3 have had road safety pedestrian training at Alexis St and Key Stage 2 children have all had PE sessions with the National Tennis Association who will also be offering an after-school club this term (details below).

In Collective Worship we have begun to look at our termly theme of The Sermon on the Mount; this week we've thought about the Beatitudes, linking them in to how we live and explored the theme of being 'Blessed'.

Dates for your Diaries

Please find an initial dates letter attached with some important dates to remember in advance. This will be updated regularly with additions highlighted for your information. Do note parents' evenings, productions etc in advance.



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PE and Performing Arts lessons have now started – another reminder that these lessons are to take place on the following days, each week, unless otherwise informed:

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Clubs/Arbor App

Monday after school enrichment clubs for Years 1-6 will commence on Monday 21st September and finish on Monday 7th December for the Autumn term. Please find attached the clubs on offer for this term. These will be ready to sign up for on Tuesday 15th September after 09:00 to secure your child/ren's place using the Arbor app. Do contact the office if you are new to us or having problems and we can manually book in for you.



Years 3-6 After School Tennis Club with National Tennis Association

Our Years 3–6 After School Tennis Club will be returning next week (Tuesday 15th September) until Tuesday 13th October, delivered by coaches from the National Tennis Association. The club takes place on Tuesday after school and is a fun and inclusive way for children to enjoy tennis, develop their skills and build confidence through a mixture of coaching, games, challenges and match play. No previous tennis experience is required and all equipment is provided. Places are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please see the attached flier for full details, dates and costs, and a link to register your child.**



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We are incredibly excited again to announce that on Sunday 27th September, 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. Please see flier attached with a QR code to sign up and further information.

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Some people have already signed up for this trip - please find a letter attached again regarding our Year 6 Residential trip to PGL, Marchant’s Hill, Surrey next June. Deposits of £10.00 are required by Friday 18th September via the Arbor app to secure your child’s place – alternatively, do make contact so you don’t miss the deadline. We hope as many children as possible can join us for this and look forward to the opportunity for Year 6.



The Union Jack Classic - American College Football live at Wembley

On Saturday 19th September 2026, Arizona State Sun Devils take on the Kansas Jayhawks live at Wembley Stadium. Due to our links with **BIGKID**, the company that run our after school Flag Football sessions, we have been offered some free tickets for you and your family to attend the event live! These are two of the best College teams in the country and an amazing opportunity to see some live American football up close and experience the buzz of college football! If you are interested in tickets please email Mr Brenta at cbrenta2.210@st-james.southwark.sch.uk with the following details: 1) Your name, 2) Your Child’s name and class, 3) Number of tickets you would like Tickets will be on a first come, first served basis



and there is a limited number. For more information regarding the day just click here: <https://unionjackclassic.com/>

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Number of tickets you would like Tickets will be on a first come, first served basis and there is a limited number. For more information regarding the day just click here: <https://unionjackclassic.com/>

Friday 18th September 2026

Another busy week during which children have continued to impress with their zest for learning! Our attention has been focused around Science. Years 1, 2 & 3 attended Hampstead Heath for their Geography field trips; the London PE Network has delivered Year 6 girls' PE sessions and children in Years 4-6 are taking part in Flag Football sessions today.

In Collective Worship we are continuing to look at our termly theme of The Sermon on the Mount; this week we've thought about the Salt & Light, thinking of how we can be guiding lights to all around us.

SIAMS Inspection – Monday 21st September

I sent an e-mail with a letter attached earlier this week informing you of our SIAMS inspection which will happen on Monday. Please find this attached again for your information. We are really excited to be welcoming our inspector into St. James' for the day to see how our Christian Vision enables everyone to thrive in our school. If you see her at the school gates, do feel free to give your view on this aspect of school life and our community.



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 27th September - PLEASE SIGN UP!

We are incredibly excited again to announce that on Sunday 27th September, 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. Please see flier attached with a QR code to sign up and further information.

Clubs/Arbor App

Monday after school enrichment clubs for Years 1-6 will commence on Monday 21st September and finish on Monday 7th December for the Autumn term. Many children have secured places in these and the Arbor app has worked well for bookings. If you are yet to sign up for a club, do feel free to contact the office at either site to see if there are any spaces still available.



Friday 25th September 2026

Another productive and busy week at St. James'! Our attention has been focused around Religious Education in light of our SIAMS Inspection on Monday. Year 4 attended Hampstead Heath for their Geography field trip; Year 3 went pond-dipping in Canada Water for their Geography and Science learning; we've marked European Day of Languages in school; the London PE Network has delivered Year 6 girls' PE sessions and Platform Cricket have attended for Year 4 PE sessions too. Clubs have also now started on a Monday for the Autumn term. In Collective Worship we are continuing to look at our termly theme of 'The Sermon on the Mount'; this week we've thought about the emotion 'Anger', thinking of how we can reconcile our differences and forgive.

SIAMS Inspection

I'm pleased to inform we had a super SIAMS Inspection on Monday where some VERY lovely things were fed back to us about our school and community. This remains confidential until our report is published (likely 12th October) however I just wanted to thank everyone, in particular the parents who came in to speak to the inspector. Your input was so appreciated and I'm sure will be reflected in what will be a great report when it comes. This will be shared when we have it.



'Run, Canada Water, Run!' – Sunday 27th September - PLEASE SIGN UP!

This Sunday sees the return of one of our favourite days of the year, RUN KIDS RUN! This is our fifth year of taking part in the fitness initiative as a way of raising additional funds for the school. It is not too late to sign up and join the fun, we need as many of the children to join Mr Brenta and a number of the teachers at Southwark Park this Sunday in order to qualify for the full funding amount. To register, scan the QR code in the attached flyer or speak to a member of staff at the school gates and they will be happy to help you out. See you all there on Sunday 2:00pm - 4:00pm at Southwark Park Running Track. If you're still unsure of your attendance, please do register anyway to help us secure our £5,000 funding to help develop our playgrounds and outside spaces.

Harvest Service – Friday 2nd October, 09:30 in St. James's Church

As you'll see from the dates letter, we have our Harvest Festival service next Friday 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.



Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

Children in Reception and Year 6 have their annual NHS checks in school which are scheduled at St. James' on Tuesday 6th October at both sites. Please find attached all the necessary information on this. These are conducted by school nurses. If for any reason you don't want your child to take part, you'll notice an 'opt-out' part at the end of the letter. Do return this, signed, to the office should you not wish your child/ren to participate. We can assist you with a copy of this on request should you need it.



Flag Football Club

A Flag Football Club for KS2 has commenced each Wednesday. Sessions are with Coach Jonathan, from the BIGKID charity, and will run each week 'til Christmas. Sessions are only £7 per week! To book, please follow the QR code in the attached flyer. If there are any questions, please speak to Mr Brenta. Places are limited so book now to secure your child's place.



Free Street Cricket

Through our partnership with Surrey Cricket and their Chance to Shine programme, our children have been invited to join them for FREE cricket sessions each Friday at Sotuthwark Park. All information is in the attached flyer, contact Alex Hughes, the programme facilitator, ajhughes@surreycricket.com for more information or speak to Mr Brenta, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Family Lives Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/coramfamilylives.org.uk/coram-family-lives-newsletter-sept26?e=82d627eec2>

Friday 2nd October 2026

A great week in school with lots of super Design Technology learning across both sites. Years 5&6 had an assembly and Daily Mile event promoting a healthy and active lifestyle; we had a lovely Harvest service in Church this morning and we're all celebrating National Poetry Day with our 'P Factor' competition and performances this afternoon. The London PE Network has delivered Year 6 girls' PE sessions and Platform Cricket have attended for Year 4 PE sessions too. A huge highlight was our 'Run, Kids, Run' event on Sunday which was attended by many families – thank you so much for coming along and showing your support! Clubs continue to be enjoyed by all for the Autumn term.

In Collective Worship we are continuing to look at our termly theme of 'The Sermon on the Mount'; this week we've thought about 'Loving our Enemies', thinking of how we can reconcile our differences and forgive.

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Reception 2027-2028 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 2027. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

- Tuesday 13th October, 09:30 @ OJR;
- Tuesday 17th November, 09:30 @ OJR;
- Tuesday 1st December, 09:30 @ OJR;
- Tuesday 5th January, 09:30 @ OJR.



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, now is the time you need to think about applying to secondary schools before the deadline. Mrs Brenta has already been there to assist with applications; let us know if you need some help too. 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 16th October as we won't be able to assist during the time we are away from school.

Soul Concert – Thursday 15th October, 17:00 in St. James's Church

Miss Hermione is delighted to present 'A Celebration of Soul & Song' where children in years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will perform a showcase of their Autumn Performing Arts learning in addition to celebrating Black History Month. This will be held in St. James's Church at 17:00. Entry fee will be a small contribution towards the school fund if you can. Children will need to be brought to church ready to perform for 16:30 to prepare. It'd be lovely to have all/as many children performing as possible and of course have a large audience to cheer the children on! Children will be seated on the ground floor, parents, carers and audience upstairs in church.



'Power The Fight' Non-uniform Day – Friday 16th October

A reminder that on the final day of term we're inviting everyone to join us with a non-uniform day where children can wear anything they like and bring a donation to the charity Power The Fight. This award winning charity works in the local community to support families and workers in reducing youth violence. Find out more at <https://www.powerthefight.org.uk>.

POWER
THE
FIGHT

Friday 9th October 2026

A great week in school with lots of super Design Technology learning across both sites. Years 5&6 had an assembly and Daily Mile event promoting a healthy and active lifestyle; we had a lovely Harvest service in Church this morning and we're all celebrating National Poetry Day with our 'P Factor' competition and performances this afternoon. The London PE Network has delivered Year 6 girls' PE sessions and Platform Cricket have attended for Year 4 PE sessions too. A huge highlight was our 'Run, Kids, Run' event on Sunday which was attended by many families – thank you so much for coming along and showing your support! Clubs continue to be enjoyed by all for the Autumn term.

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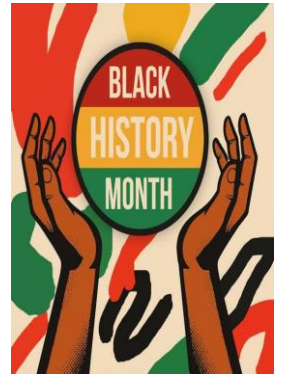
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POWER
THE
FIGHT

Friday 16th October 2026

A busy and productive week in school as we approach Autumn half term with lots of Science learning across both sites. The London PE Network has continued to deliver Year 6 girls' PE sessions and Platform Cricket have attended for Year 4 PE sessions too. Year 2 children were joined by practitioners from King's College for Teddy Bear Hospital medical workshops, Year 4 attended Southwark Park for part of their Science learning, our Year 6 Scholar's Programme continues, KS2 children performed wonderfully in their Soul Concert yesterday and we are so grateful for your generous support for 'Power the Fight', both with yesterday's Bake Sale and today's non-uniform day. In Collective Worship we are continuing to look at our termly theme of The Sermon on the Mount; this week we've thought about reflection with 'Prayer and Fasting'. We'll continue to explore this theme when we return from half term.

Reception 2027-2028 Open Mornings – 09:30, Old Jamaica Road

Another reminder of tours of our OJR site for a series of Open Mornings for existing and prospective parents of Reception children starting school in September 2027. Please spread the word to any parents you know, or join us yourselves, for these on one of the following mornings:

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Parents' Evening Booking

Our Parents' Evenings are approaching and will be held on Wednesday 18th November (EYFS/KS1) and Wednesday 25th November (KS2), both in the OJR Hall. Parent's Evening Consultation slots can be booked through our Arbor app as usual and will be live to book from 09:00 on Tuesday 3rd November.

PARENTS'
EVENINGS

Autumn Half Term Activities and Camps

Please find a few attachments advertising things to do during the half term break. These include:

- Miss Jess's Shout Out Youth Theatre Camp running at OJR for KS2 children from Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd October (details and contact upon flier);

- A local Gymnastics and Dance camp running from 26th – 29th October (details and contact upon flier);
- As previously advertised, National Tennis Association is running its 'Monster Smash' Tennis Camps this October half-term at both Burgess Park and Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (flier attached);
- Please see attached flier from Appleby Blue for a family event during half term;
- 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 'Dreamland,' 'Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom', 'Matilda,' and 'Snow White.' The full programme can be found here: <https://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/season/films-for-the-family> ;
- Please follow this link for Southwark's Food and Fun programme for those eligible for Targeted Free School Meals: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/public-health-and-safety/health-and-wellbeing/staying-healthy/healthy-eating-children-and-0> .

Arbor App/Annual Request for Consents

As you know, we often send notifications to you through the Arbor app. They appear as unread messages on the left hand side of the screen on the home page. We would be grateful if you would ensure that your notifications are turned on on your device to ensure you don't miss any of these alerts. This week we have pushed out a notification asking you to update your preferences regarding the publication of your child/children's work or image. Please take a moment to update your consent wishes on the Arbor app. Your consent will enable us to continue to celebrate the wonderful work & achievements of all the children at St James'. This is done through our school website, instagram feed and occasionally by posting embedded links on our website from our private Vimeo account, showing videos of the children performing sports & drama. This is not an exclusive list but represents the main use of the images taken by staff in school on school-owned devices.

Safeguarding Reporting Tool

As an additional tool in our ongoing responsibility to "Keep Children Safe in Education", we have recently subscribed to a service from an existing supplier, CPOMS. This QR code allows anyone to anonymously and confidentially report a safeguarding concern to the Safeguarding Team at St James'. You will see posters around school displaying the code and it is also posted on our website under this link: [Link to Safeguarding\Who to contact if you are worried](#) . Please note that our advice remains the same if a child is in immediate danger - call 999 without delay.



Events after Autumn Half Term

Please also find our dates letter attached as usual with some further updates for Autumn term 2.

Monday 2 nd November	• Back to school for Autumn term 2 at normal school times; • Violin lessons for KS2 (Years 3-6); • Monday after-school extra-curricular continue, ending at 16:15 (Alexis St) and 16:30 (OJR).
Tuesday 3 rd November	• No events.

Wednesday 4 th November	• Years Reception and 1 taking part in ‘Germ Busters’ hygiene workshops in school.
Thursday 5 th November	• No events.
Friday 6 th November	• ‘Wear Blue’ non-uniform day for King’s College & Evelina Diabetes Support. Wear blue items of clothing in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 or more.

*Wishing you, along with our whole community,
a happy, healthy and safe Autumn half term break.
We look forward to seeing everyone on our return for
Autumn term 2 on Monday 2nd November
at the usual school times. ☺*

God bless,

from the St. James’ team.

