

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to everyone! It has been so lovely to see the children back after the Summer holidays and hear about all the lovely things you have been doing as families. I'm impressed with how well everyone has come back and settled in to their classes with new teachers straight away and am seeing lots of smiling faces and excellent attitudes to learning already – thanks as always for your input into this! Our Collective Worship themes will re-commence next week with a virtual Church service on Monday and our Collective Worship and celebration assemblies in school will also re-commence soon to celebrate all the children's terrific achievements!

Gates – Drop offs and Collections

We are aware the gates seemed quite busy at both sites – particularly for collection at the end of the day. A few things we are asking you to be mindful of:

- **Please be patient**, children's class teachers must have seen parents/carers to enable children to go and this can take a few minutes, especially as they are getting used to new faces – this is simply to keep all children safe;
- While we will keep these timings and gates for now to ensure there are not too many changes, **we will give longer windows for drop-offs and collections**. Mrs Willis has contacted Reception parents and carers giving a longer gap and all other year groups will be able to drop off from 08:50-09:05 (Alexis St) and between 09:10-09:25 (Old Jamaica Road). Please then bear in mind we have a similar 10-15minute slot at the end of the day and 15:05-15:20 (Old Jamaica Road) 15:25-15:35 (Alexis St).

At Alexis St the barriers give us lots of space outside the school to wait. Please do be mindful not to crowd around the gate as you won't be seen – it's much easier to see who is collecting when spaced out along the fence. It's also still advisable for you to socially distance and not crowd around together for obvious reasons. While our contractors were not able to complete all the works we needed in the Summer holidays, we are soon to have new gates and fences to make collections and drop-offs much easier and safer for everyone – we'll let you know when work is scheduled and what any new plans might be.

Uniform

It's been amazing to see so many smart uniforms and black school shoes – it really does make such a difference to the children's attitudes and conduct. Our uniform shop and policy can be found here: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/uniform>

Please, please ensure all items are labelled with children's names as items often go missing! We've JUST been informed PE shorts are not available from our uniform shop – no need to worry, plain jogging bottoms/shorts are fine for now if you're struggling to find them for PE days.

PE Days

Please see the attached letter telling you which days children will have PE. This will start from next week – our first full week back at school. Children will continue to come to school wearing PE kits on these days.

School Organisation/Covid

As you'll be aware, rules for Covid-19 regulations have been relaxed and we are no longer required to keep children in year group bubbles etc. Despite this, as a school we have found many benefits to keeping year groups together for lots of different reasons so, although school is more relaxed and back to normal, year groups will continue to play together and eat together separate to other year groups. This is beneficial, for instance, for younger children who are much smaller than older children and has helped with a happy, seamless transition for our new Year 3 children who have moved to Alexis St. You'll have seen from my information last week that water bottles can now be brought in as they were before and that reading books and journals will be coming home. Small book bags are all that will be needed for this and no other items should be brought in to school as has always been the case. PE kits should still be worn for the day on PE days – this has been really helpful and has saved learning time so children don't have to get changed in school.

Breakfast/After School Clubs

If your child is at KS2 (Years 3-6), they will need to be booked into Fit For Sport in advance online:

<https://www.fitforsport.co.uk/extended-school-clubs/find-your-school/detail/st-james-ce-primary-school?lat=51.4926884065476&lng=-0.0658067249831&id=160>

If your child is in Nursery, Reception or KS1 in September you can book into Pat O'Connor's Breakfast and After school clubs via the school office e-mail or by contacting Pat on poconnor10.210@lgflmail.org

Year 5 and 6 Parents and Carers – Secondary Schools

Please find attached a flier for Bacon's College open evenings/mornings if you are starting to think about secondary schools and the application process. We will send through other things when they come to us so you can begin to do research and think about applying ahead of the deadline in October. Please do contact Mrs Brenta via the office e-mail for any questions, however she will begin to arrange meetings and send information to you separately.

Wishing you, the children and our whole school community a super, sunny weekend! We look forward to our first full week back of this academic year.

God bless, from the St. James' team.