

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a super first full week back! All children have centred their learning around the picture book 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright. Along with their English, Maths and broader curriculum work, children have explored the themes of resilience and not judging others – do ask your children about their learning this week and also check our Instagram accounts for some pictures of this week's learning. We had a Church Service to welcome all children to school on Monday which was held virtually and we're looking forward to welcoming members of the church in to school soon to resume our Collective Worship proper. I'm happy to report we've had a super week – all are happy and settled in their new classes, particularly our Reception and Year 3 children who have handled their transitions and changes with great aplomb – well done to them!

Gates – Drop offs and Collections

Many thanks for your co-operation and patience while waiting for children at the gates for collections at the end of the day. Things have been more swift and efficient and will continue to be as class teachers know the faces of all parents and carers. As I've said, we're waiting for new gates and fences to be installed which will make things even better! At Alexis St we've marked the fence to suggest you stand where your child/ren's classes – it's much easier for children and class teachers to see if you are near where they line up. Another reminder not to stand in the way of the gate as children are exiting as this will only make the process more difficult!

PE Days

A reminder of children's PE days, on which they should attend school WEARING their PE kits:

- Mondays – Years 3 & 4;
- Tuesdays – Years 1 & 2;
- Wednesdays – Reception & Year 6;
- Thursdays – Year 5.

Children in Belgium class at Key Stage Two should wear their PE kits according to their appropriate age-related year group above.

Absence Reporting

If your child is unable to attend school, please do let us know as soon as possible. As well as the more usual ways of reporting your child's absence from school (phone/email/text), we use a very efficient and secure system called 'Studybugs'. You can register on the website: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> or download the free Studybugs App.

Open Day - Dockhead Fire Station

Dockhead Fire Station are holding an open day at their station, 8 Wolseley Street, SE1 2BP on Saturday 11th September 12pm-3pm. Please see flyer attached.

Reception Admissions 2022-23

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, your child is due to start primary school in September 2022. You can start applying from 1st September 2021 and you must submit your application before the closing date on Saturday 15th January 2022. If you would like assistance with the application process, Mrs Brenta will be available to help with this after our half term holiday in October.

Southwark Primary School brochure is now available on line, where you can read about the application process and details of all Southwark Primary Schools:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-admissions/types-of-primary-schools-in-southwark>

We will be offering Reception Open Days here at St. James' very soon, dates will be announced on the web site and on future newsletters.

Southwark Secondary Schools' Open Days and Evenings 2021

Due to the current circumstances relating to COVID-19, Southwark have not published open day/evening dates for schools in Southwark. We strongly advise families to check each school's website for details on how and when they'll be holding their open day/evening as this may be subject to change at short notice. Follow this link for Southwark Secondary Schools, then click on individual schools to see their open sessions.

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-admissions/secondary-schools-open-days-and-evenings>

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Mrs Brenta has allocated two sessions if you need any assistance with the Secondary School application process:

- Tuesday 21st September, appointments available from 10am;
- Wednesday 29th September, appointments available from 10am.

Please email Mrs Brenta, cbrenta.210@lgflmail.org to book your appointment. Please do try and visit some schools at the Open Sessions, and do take your child along too (if it is during school day please just let us know). The closing date for applications is during half term and Mrs Brenta is on Jury Service for two weeks prior to half term, so will not be available from 11th October to help.

Wishing you, the children and our whole school community a lovely weekend!

God bless, from the St. James' team.