

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a busy week in school and all children have this week started their new class books and topics for Autumn term 1. I've seen some amazing learning already and children have settled in really well with terrific attitudes. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been based around 'New Starts' and Jacob joined us to deliver super Church Assemblies on Tuesday. We've also been thinking about Zacchaeus and the new start he made with the help of Jesus. Next week our Collective Worship will look at some of the Parables Jesus told in the form of 'The Mustard Seed', 'The Great Banquet' and 'The Good Samaritan'. Many thanks to all our parents and carers for your support in ensuring we've had a super start to the year too!

### **Alexis St Parking**

We realise the weather is now changing and we will invariably soon be experiencing many more wet and cold days, however we must ask that you do not arrive early to Alexis St, in order you can park near the entrance gate and of course the same in the afternoon. If you really must drive to school please park on Macks Road, or the side of Alexis St beyond the barriers. Higgins Partnership have said the road closures will be happening soon so it may be advisable to find alternative ways to travel to KS2 site as there will be very limited parking when they begin building work.

### **Parent Gym**

We know from talking with parents that many of you wonder what you can do to give your children the best start in life (and make your life as a parent a bit easier too). This is why we're delighted to offer 'Parent Gym', a well-established, six-week programme that shares and explores practical tips and strategies to make family life easier and help your children thrive. The programme has been run successfully here at St James' many times, and we welcome new and old faces - I know some of you were unable to complete the programme due to the inconvenient arrival of Covid last year, which meant we did not quite finish. We would love to see you all back!

The Taster Session will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 09:30 at Old Jamaica Road, please do register your interest with Mrs Brenta, [cbrenta.210@lgflmail.org](mailto:cbrenta.210@lgflmail.org). Meanwhile, for further detail of this wonderful parenting programme follow this link:

<https://parentgym.com/> The programme will then start Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for six weeks.

### **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.

### **Metropolitan Police Service Christmas Tree Campaign 2021**

We have been invited to take part in the Met Police Service poster campaign. This year a total of twelve finalists will be selected with one from every local BCU senior police team, and the overall winner, selected by the Commissioner, will have their picture made into a poster which will be used for the London-wide campaign. Provided Covid-19 guidance allows, the overall winner and top four runners-up will be invited to New Scotland Yard, where the overall winner will be invited to switch on the Christmas tree lights with the Commissioner. Safety guidelines will be included in all invites closer to the time.

The poster competition picture needs to be designed on an A4 size paper. Children can be as creative as they wish, there is no particular theme other than Christmas! Name, gender and school should also be provided for all submitted pictures, and they need to be returned for attention of Mrs Brenta by Wednesday 6th October.

### **Family Lives Newsletter**

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

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-sep21?e=10e6384bfc>

### **St. James' Alumni**

It's always wonderful to hear of the achievements of our past pupils. This week St. Saviour's & St. Olaves sent us a letter to report Deborah and Ciara have gained places and are about to start their studies at Cambridge University to study Modern and Medieval Languages and Falmouth to study Graphic Design respectively. Do keep in touch to let us know about any future success of our previous pupils!

### **Southwark Secondary Schools' Open Days and Evenings 2021**

Another reminder for parents and carers of Year 6 children to keep looking for and attending secondary school open days! 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>

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

**God bless,**

**from the St. James' team.**