

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another productive and busy week in school - all children have been producing some super work and have been fully immersed in their topics and class books. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been based around of the Parables Jesus told in the form of 'The Mustard Seed', 'The Great Banquet' and 'The Good Samaritan'. Next week we'll continue to think about the Parables of Jesus and learn about 'The Lost Sheep', 'The Lost Son' and 'The Wise Man' and how these stories can help us with our lives. It was lovely to welcome Gary back in to school this week to lead our Collective Worship on Tuesday.

Next week some of our Year 6 boys and girls will be attending a football tournament at Bacon's College with the London PE Network. We're so happy to be starting to compete and join in with lovely activities like this again. If your child has not been selected this time, there are plenty more events on the horizon across Key Stage Two year groups. We will e-mail you as they come along. Good luck to all involved!

Punctuality

We're happy to report attendance is again quite good and we're really pleased to have come to an end of a high level of self-isolation related absences. Punctuality is however a major concern across both key stages, particularly at Key Stage One (OJR) with many children each day being brought in regularly as much as half an hour late. Children are missing out on so much learning and this causes a great deal of disruption to our office staff who are busy spending the first part of each day ensuring children are safely delivered to their classes. This can often leave a phone unmanned, meaning people are unable to contact us. Please do remember our start times and the fact we stay at the gates for a few minutes longer than these each day. If you are having difficulty with waking up/alarms etc please do let us know and we'll try to help in some way. Unfortunately, Mrs Brenta cannot sustain the level of morning wake-up calls she has been providing. Many thanks in advance for making a real effort to get your child/ren to school on time.

Uniform

We are aware of some issues with the uniform supplier, 'Shop Keep Easy'. Unfortunately, this seems to be a general issue with supply, not only from our supplier. We have been researching other suppliers and they have had similar issues with deliveries. Looking at the orders now it would seem most have been fulfilled, if you have been waiting a long time for an order please do email them for an update. We will not be selling any uniform from school. We are also able to offer a cheaper alternative to the post and packing fee, normally £4.80, if an order is to be shipped directly to your address. If you choose when ordering to have your order packed and delivered to school, the postage will be £2.40. When the order is delivered we will hand to your child to bring home. You can still choose to have delivered to your home for £4.80.

Metropolitan Police Service Christmas Tree Campaign 2021

Another reminder about this competition which is open to all children - 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.**

Year 6 – Applications for Secondary Schools

We hope everyone is up to speed with the process for Secondary School applications. Many people have had appointments with Mrs Brenta to help with this process. Please do be reminded that Mrs Brenta will be on Jury Service from Monday 11th October until the Autumn half term so will not be able to offer support for the final two weeks of this half term. Should you need any assistance she is still making appointments for next Wednesday – 29th September – if you'd like to discuss the process/form further.

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! Thank you for e-mailing in to let us know when children are absent from school. 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 lovely weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.