



Dear All,

Welcome back to everyone after the long summer holiday; we hope you've had a lovely break. It's super to be back at St. James' and to see all the children and hear about all they have been doing with their holidays! This week children have 'hit the ground running' and have been doing lots of creative work around their class countries. I'm sure they've been telling you all about their geography, art and design, cooking and lovely writing around this theme. We had an optimistic, thought-provoking 'Welcome Back' church service on Wednesday and I'm so pleased to say that the children have come back with calm, focused attitudes conducive to learning. Next week all children from Nursery – Year 6 will be basing their learning around the natural world with a lovely picture book – 'Above & Below' by Patricia Hegarty & Hanako Clulow.

Condolences

Sadly, we lost two parents who passed away in the summer holidays, our prayers and condolences are with their families.

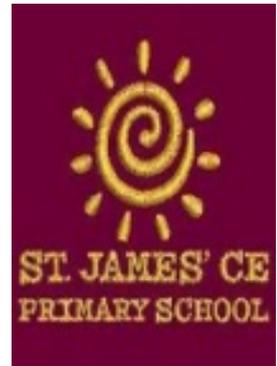
Party Bags/Cake for children's birthdays

Due to our being a Healthy School, and also aiming to cut down on waste with packaging and plastic, we have decided to ban any party bags, sweets or cake being handed out to our children on birthdays. We do know parents' intentions are really kind, however we have lots of things to consider – eg. Allergens and other parents feeling pressure to accept unwanted sugary food. Please do not bring any food, sweets, cake or drinks in for birthdays in the future and please don't be offended when we politely decline your requests to do so.



School Uniform

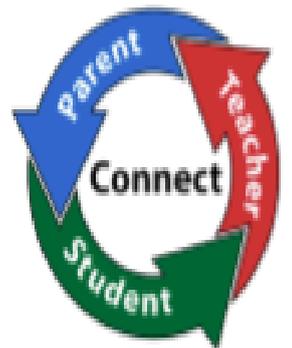
The children have arrived back to school really smartly; thank you for your efforts and continued support in making sure children are appropriately dressed for school. This not only promotes a positive image of our school, but also has a positive effect on children's behaviour and conduct. Thank you for your support with this and thanks in advance for ensuring children have full school uniform throughout the academic year. We are pleased to offer school uniform from stock at both sites. PE kit is available and at only £2.10 for shorts and £2.10 for T Shirts and every child should have our maroon shorts and yellow T Shirts, especially while it remains quite warm. Joggers are also available for only £5. Please see Mr. Griffin's separate letter for details on PE kits. Our blazers are really smart and still optional, please do ask at the office if you would like to buy or order one, priced £18. Grey skirts, trousers, shirts, black shoes and plimsolls are all available from high street stores. A few children are wearing black trainers with coloured or white soles or details. Please do ensure our policy is to wear **plain black footwear**. Plimsolls are fine, as long as these are also plain black.



Parent Information Evenings

Next week, our first full week back, we'll be holding parent information evenings for all year groups from 1-6. This will be a great opportunity to meet children's teachers and year/phase group leads or members of our SLT and ask any questions you may have about the new academic year. We're looking forward to seeing you there! These will take place as follows:

- **Monday 9th September:** Year 1 and Year 6 Parent/Carer meeting with class teachers and year leads/SLT at 17:00. (Year 1 – OJR Hall, Year 6 – Alexis St).
- **Tuesday 10th September:** Year 2 and Year 5 Parent/Carer meeting with class teachers and year leads/SLT at 17:00. (Year 2 – OJR Hall, Year 5 – Alexis St).
- **Wednesday 11th September:** Year 3 Parent/Carer meeting with class teachers and SLT at Alexis St at 17:00.
- **Thursday 12th September:** Year 4 Parent/Carer meeting with class teachers and SLT at Alexis St at 17:00.



Legoland Attendance Trips

Our annual trips to Legoland (Years 2-6) are coming up this half term as a reward for attendance last year—look out for letters being sent home should your child qualify for these! The first will happen next Friday – 13th September, the 2nd trip will be the following Friday – 20th September.



Dates for your Diaries

Look out for a 'Dates for your Diaries' letter which will come home with next Friday's newsletter with information on Parents' Evenings, school events and Year 6 secondary school meetings etc. There are lots of exciting things planned for the Autumn Term!



Violin Tuition

If you are interested in your child receiving Violin tuition, please contact Emily on emjmoore1994@gmail.com for details of her half hour lessons for as little at £12.00.



Clubs

There has been a letter sent home for children to choose clubs. Please do encourage these to come back to us next week, no later than Wednesday 11th September as stated on the letter, to avoid disappointment. Mr. Griffin & Miss Jess will assign children to at least one of their choices after children have returned these letters. Please note all clubs will start week commencing Monday 23rd September and will run for the whole term, until Thursday 5th December. Some exciting opportunities are being offered by our staff as well as Skateboard and Violin lessons from external teachers. Fit for Sport continues to run Breakfast and After School Clubs at Alexis St as well as Pat O'Connor's Breakfast and After School clubs at Old Jamaica Road.



Welcome to
Year 3!

Year 2 to 3 Transition

I'm pleased to say our new Year 3 children have settled into Alexis Street seamlessly with their new teachers and seem very happy at Key Stage Two already! Please do bear in mind the new start and finish times for the school day—08:55-15:30. The gate to the playground will be opened earlier for parents to wait or come in with their children. Year 3 teachers have collected children from the playground at the beginning of the day but very soon children at Alexis St make their way up to class on their own on a morning as usual.

Year 5/6 Secondary School Open Days and Advice

Year 6 children we know will be going to visit many secondary schools soon, which we always advise. Mrs Brenta will be sending home some dates of Open Days in Southwark and Westminster secondary schools. Year 5 parents and carers – it's also worth beginning to think about secondary schools now to make your process next year an easier one! We will have a meeting at Alexis St on Wednesday 2nd October at 14:30 for Year 6 parents and carers to come and meet Mrs Brenta regarding secondary school transfers so do come to this, or alternatively contact Mrs Brenta for any questions regarding this process. Remember the deadline for applications for Southwark is the end of October so not too far away!



Some Dates in advance this Half Term:

Monday 16th September: Nursery starts for EXISTING children and parents – phased start all week.

Friday 20th September: 2nd Legoland Attendance Trip.

Monday 23rd September: ALL clubs start for the Autumn term & Nursery starts for NEW children and parents – phased start all week.

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th September: Year 6 children on their residential trip to PGL.

Thursday 26th September: 'Mini' Marsden March – children from Year 1 – 6 take part in Sponsored Walk in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity in Southwark Park.

Wednesday 2nd October: Year 6 Parent/Carer meeting re. Secondary School Transfer – 14:30 at Alexis Street.

Friday 4th October: Poetry Day – poetry activities all day across both sites.

Monday 7th October: Harvest Service in St. James' Church – 09:30 – all welcome.

Tuesday 8th October: Nursery and Reception Initial Parents' Evening.

Friday 11th October: Abel & Cole Cookery School workshops at both sites.

Monday 14th – Friday 18th October: Black History Month activities and RE for the whole school.

Wednesday 16th October: King's College Teddy Bear Hospital workshops with Reception children.

Thursday 17th October: World Food Day – celebrations after school at Old Jamaica Road. Parents and carers invited to bring in cuisines from their own cultures and share foods from all over the world to celebrate our school community.

Friday 18th October: Break up for Half Term – 3:15pm OJR/3:30PM Alexis St.



Dates and Trips: Any parents who could come on trips to help would be greatly appreciated; please let your child's teacher know if you can help. Any last minute trips that may occur, we will try our best to let you know as well in advance as we can.

Monday 9th September

Year 1 & 6 Parent/carers meetings as mentioned overleaf.

Tuesday 10th September

Year 2 & 5 Parent/carers meetings as mentioned overleaf.

Wednesday 11th September

Year 3 Parent/carers meeting as mentioned overleaf.

Thursday 12th September

Year 4 Parent/carers meeting as mentioned overleaf.

Friday 13th September

1st Legoland Attendance trip – details overleaf and on separate letter.

Library visits will be arranged in due course.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter—@St JamesSchool

