



Dear All,

We've had another busy and highly productive week! Children continue to enjoy their new class books and topics. Year 3 visited Hyde Park today as part of their Science learning and we've continued with our swimming and library visits. Our 'Mini' Marsden March went really well yesterday (details below) and our Year 6 children and adults had an amazing experience at their School Journey in PGL, Marchant's Hill. All classes in KS2 are visiting Paul in Church for our annual 'Schools Week' activities which are also going really well and are a super link to our place of worship. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has continued with 'The Parables of Jesus' and we've thought carefully about the messages of kindness and social intelligence that Jesus taught us through the Prodigal Son, the Wise and Foolish Men and the Lost Sheep. Next week we'll think about 'Getting Ready for Harvest' and consider how lucky and grateful we are for all we have before our Harvest Service on Monday on Monday 7th October – please note we will be accepting donations of food as usual for this service. Children's behaviour continues to be super; this is helped by a full school uniform – most children are looking really smart but I'll include the usual reminder to supply **plain black** footwear for school!! Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Clubs

Clubs have now started and children seem to enjoy all we offer. Please collect children from clubs at 16:00 (KS1) or 16:15 (KS2). At OJR, please resist the temptation to go into the playground to watch children in sports clubs – our teachers need to know whose parents/carers are there when collected and we cannot have people wandering around the premises for safeguarding reasons. Many thanks for your co-operation. Clubs will run until and including Thursday 5th December for the Autumn Term.



Mini Marsden March

Our walk in Southwark Park went really well yesterday and over 60 children from Years 1-6 took part and brought sponsorship money in. Please collect any money over the weekend and return to school with your child(ren). I'm thrilled to announce we have raised over £400 so far – we're always so delighted with our school community's generosity for such deserving causes. I'll aim to give a final figure when the total is reached.



Year 6 Secondary School Open Days and Advice

We have a meeting at Alexis St on Wednesday next week - 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!



FREE Family Learning Course for Fathers and Male Carers

Southwark Council are offering a 4-week programme to develop and build your confidence and skills as a parent to support and help your children's learning. This is for fathers, grandfathers, stepdads and men who have caring/parental responsibilities for children aged between 3 and 18. Starting Monday 30th September 2019 (10.00 am – 12.30 pm), this will run at the Thomas Calton Centre, Alpha Street, London SE15 4NX. To book a place, call 020 7358 2100 or for more information email Margaret.Taribo@southwark.gov.uk



Illness

If your child is ill please do consider using the FREE Studybugs App to report the absence to school: Studybugs provides a unique communication platform for children's health, used by thousands of schools and parents across the UK. In partnership with the NHS and other public health organisations, Studybugs tracks what bugs are going around and passes on expert advice to keep children healthy and in school. Download the App from <https://studybugs.com/>



Parent Governor Vacancy

Due to parent governor Christine Oettinger relocating with the family, a vacancy has arisen for a parent governor here at St James'. Thanks are offered to Mrs Oettinger for all her contribution to St James' and we wish the family well in their new home and school. Please see attached letter for further information.



Open Mornings for Reception 2020-2021

Please note open mornings for prospective Reception children 2020-2021, Thursday October 31st, Thursday November 7th, Thursday November 14th, at 9.30 am at Old Jamaica Road. Jim Hutchinson, Vice Chair of governors will talk at 10am.



ESOL

We are pleased to offer a creche facility for this popular course. It will continue on Tuesdays from 1pm at Old Jamaica Road. Please do come along if you are interested in improving your English speaking and writing. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Brenta.



Tea and Toast

We would like to invite all reception parents and carers to a Tea and Toast morning to meet Mrs. Brenta and other parents and carers from your child's Reception class. Drop your child at school and join Mrs. Brenta in the hall on Friday 4th October or Friday 11th October (or both days) for tea, coffee and toast!



ENGIE Building Site Safety Poster competition

Please see attached template for the ENGIE competition. Richard will be visiting us again soon to judge the winning poster, if your children haven't already designed a poster now is their chance! Try and remember what he said in the assemblies last term and draw bright poster warning children of the dangers you may find on a building site. Please return by Friday 11th October.



Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently 98%, which is a fantastic start to the new term, well done everyone, especially Year 5, who have most classes on 100% this week!

Class attendance for this week: Please see the website for a full breakdown our policy and criteria for attendance trips. Please be advised of our start times—08:55 at KS2 and 09:15 at KS1. Children are arriving to school increasingly later – please do be prompt and ready for school!			
Class:	Attendance:	Class:	Attendance:
6 Canada	97 %	4 Kenya	96 %
6 Mexico	98 %	3 Norway	96 %
6 Peru	99 %	3 Sweden	99 %
5 China	97 %	Belgium class	98 %
5 India	100 %	2 France	99 %
5 Japan	100 %	2 Spain	97 %
5 Russia	100 %	1 Germany	96 %
4 Egypt	97 %	1 Italy	96 %
4 Ghana	97 %		
Weekly Winners: 5INDIA, JAPAN & RUSSIA - Very well done! ☺			



Some Dates in advance this Half Term:

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 30th September – No trips.

Tuesday 1st October – Girls' Football Competition; 6 Peru to church for Schools' week; Year 2 France to the Library.

Wednesday 2nd October – Year 3 and 5 China & Japan to church for Schools' week; Year 6 parent/carers meeting (details overleaf) & Borough Market Harvest Sale.

Thursday 3rd October – Year 3 Sweden to the Library; Mini Marsden March Years 1-6 during afternoon.

Friday 4th October – Poetry Day activities; Tea & Toast (details above).

**Don't forget to follow us on Twitter—
@StJamesSchool**





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September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The governing body is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body carries out its role by setting the vision for the school and then ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance. The governing body has representatives nominated by St James' Church, the Southwark Diocesan Board, the Local Authority, as well as members elected by the staff and parents.

A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor on our governing body. The governing body is asking you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If it receives more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body, The Governing Body would be strengthened if a prospective governor has a legal background or has accountancy/financial skills. Would you consider applying? Governors also need what is known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to read straightforward budget reports and data on school standards.

Our governing body expects governors to

- attend 3 termly meetings of the full governing body
- sit on one or more of the various committees and attend the meetings which are usually 1 a term
- visit the school formally for monitoring purposes on Governors' days – usually held once a year
- visit the school informally at least 3 times a year
- commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required and take part in monitoring at least one or two areas within the school

In return, our governing body commits to

- provide you with a structured induction
- provide access to quality training via the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and/or Southwark Council
- provide you with an experienced governor as mentor
- provide informal feedback on your contribution to the governing body on a bi-annual basis

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, please email me with your contact details and I will pass on your details to the chair who will then arrange a time for a conversation.

Carolyn Brenta

Clerk to the Governing Body

November 2016

governorclerk@st-james.southwark.sch.uk

