

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy week we've had in school - all children have continued to produce some amazing work and have been really engaged with their topics and class books. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been based around the Parables Jesus told in the form of 'The Lost Sheep', 'The Lost Son' and 'The Wise Man' and how these stories can help us with our lives. Next week our focus will be based around Harvest looking at 'God's Wonderful World', 'The Rich Fool' and how we can give thanks for all we have. On Monday 11th October we will all go to church in the morning (children from Years 1-6) for a Harvest Service. We are not encouraging parents and carers to join our church services at the moment to keep numbers of people gathering lower however we hope that we will be able to soon.

Year 6 – Applications for Secondary Schools

A final reminder to Year 6 parents and carers 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. If you have been unable to see her but still need some help she will be available on Wednesday morning, please call to make an appointment. You are strongly advised to submit your application as soon as possible! You can always revisit the site and change or add preferences, but at least your application will be in the system.

A number of parents have been asking about St. Michael's Catholic College as one of their choices. As with every secondary school you are interested in, we strongly advise you check their website and their Admissions policy, especially when it is a faith based school and check which criteria you will come under in the event of over subscription, which St. Michael's always is! You can choose up to six schools, make sure you choose schools you would be happy for your child to go to, as in the event of not getting your first choice you may be allocated one of your other choices (although you will remain on the waiting list of your first choice). If you are not successful with your choices, you will be allocated a secondary school by Southwark so we do advise choosing very carefully and listing more than one school. We know a lot of you have been on Open Days, if you been unable to go to any do check out the websites as some virtual tours are also taking place.

Reception Admissions 2022-2023

You'll find an attachment with all the information you may need regarding Reception applications. We are holding Open Days to show you around St. James' School before you make this very important decision for your child. Please book a place by emailing office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk with your preferred date. We will email you with a confirmation. Dates available are: **Tuesday 2nd November 2021 10am, Tuesday 9th November 10am and Tuesday 23rd November 2pm.**

Food Bank – St. Peter's RC Church, Rotherhithe

You'll have noticed I sent a text on Wednesday as one of our parents who volunteers at this Food Bank advised they had lots of produce to give to those in need. Do remember this is available should you need it each Wednesday between 11am-1pm. The address is: 72 Paradise St, London SE16 4QD. If anyone else has information on any local support offers, please pass on.

Year 5/6 Football Competitions

Unfortunately, our Year 6 football tournament on Monday was cancelled last-minute due to the inclement weather. We do hope future fixtures will go ahead as scheduled and we'll let you know in advance when these are to take place. Mr. Brenta reported a super time was had by all in Year 5's tournament yesterday:

“On Thursday two year five teams took part in the first inter-school football tournament of the year at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Sports Facility in Elephant and Castle. Though we didn't come back with the trophy, both teams played amazingly well, especially considering they we're up against predominantly year six opposition. Stand out performances included Xi Yu and Bailey in midfield, a great penalty save from goalkeeper Daniel, two goals from Hamdi and an incredible five for Senay! Well done to all those that came and took part.”

Parent Courses

We may be able to offer some Family Learning courses for our parents and carers after half term:

- Helping your child with English as an Additional Language - Thursday PM;
- Helping your child with Literacy - Tuesday AM;
- Helping your Child with Maths - Wednesday AM.

Southwark Adult Education will run these courses with our assistance, depending on the interest and according to the ages of your children, will tailor the course accordingly. Numbers will be limited and the courses will run for six weeks until the end of Autumn term. If you are interested in any of these courses please do let Mrs Brenta know, email her on cbrenta.210@lgflmail.org

Young Marketeers

If you are visiting Borough market on Tuesday 5th October, you may recognise some of our pupils who have been taking part in the Young Marketeers Project with School Food Matters (the charity that very generously donated all the lovely breakfast boxes during lockdown). They will be selling fresh produce, a lot of it grown in the school gardens to raise money for Fare Share charity. If you are there do pop by and say hello and perhaps they can tempt you to buy some fresh herbs and vegetables.

A flier is attached for a local Capoeira club which one of our parents has recommended and passed on – check this out if you're looking for things to do with your children!

We have lots more whole school events and activities planned for the second part of the Autumn term and are discussing Christmas performances/Children in Need and charity events so I will send a list of dates for your diaries for Autumn Term 2 so you're aware of things on the horizon. I'll keep on adding to weekly newsletters too so do keep on checking these.

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

**God bless,
from the St. James' team.**