

Dear Parents & Carers,

Time has really flown and we've come to the end of Spring term 2, breaking up today at normal school finish times. Children have been working really hard and we're very proud of them all and all they've achieved this term. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has made us think about how not to judge others, showing love for enemies and 'approaching God the right way'. After half term, we'll begin to think about Lent and more things Jesus taught us leading up to Easter. The 'dates for your diaries' letter is still attached with some important dates to save until the end of the year and I'll update with workshops etc. which will be happening more and more along with trips and events as we enter Spring term 2 and the Summer term. Next half term is always a busy one with lots of themed days and events so do keep watching out for things on weekly newsletters so you don't miss things. Please use half term as an opportunity to ensure children are smartly dressed in full school uniform when they return. See the website for details: <https://www.stjameschoolbermondsey.com/uniform>

Punctuality

We make this desperate plea fairly often, but please, please try to be at school on time – start times are 08:55 at Alexis St and 09:15 at OJR. We're still having increasing numbers of children arriving up to 30 minutes late in many instances on a regular basis and children are missing out on lots of learning because of this. If you're struggling on a morning, please do let us know in case there's anything we can support with. Thanks for your co-operation – it'd be great if we could turn this around after the half term break!

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please do let us know at the earliest opportunity. We have a number of ways to do this - please call the office at either site, there is an answerphone should your call not be answered, as occasionally our office staff are not at the desk. You can also send us a text or an email, or report via the free Studybugs app: <https://studybugs.com/> If we have not heard from you we will then call you on the first day of absence, followed by a text or email if we have been unable to speak to you. If we have no contact regarding an absence this too will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, until you are able to inform us of the reason for absence.

Communications

Recently we've been unable to get through to some parents/carers to find they have changed their phone numbers or e-mail addresses and not let us know. If this should happen to you, do provide your new details and we'll update the system. It's vitally important – and a legal requirement for lots of safeguarding reasons – that we have your contact details in case of emergencies or safeguarding concerns etc. Many thanks for updating us in most instances.

Half Term Holiday Clubs and Activities

A reminder of the previously attached ideas for holiday clubs and ideas over half term – we do hope those of you in need have organised childcare. Do please let us know if any holiday clubs are particularly good as it's always helpful to pass on recommendations. I won't re-attach the fliers – they can be found on previous newsletters or using the websites to the organisations below:

- LSBU Holiday Camp which is running at St. Jude's C of E Primary School. For more information, visit their website to find out more here or email/ring them on sportscentre@lsbu.ac.uk/02078157812 to register your child.;
- Southwark Holiday Clubs running at various venues in the not too distant area. Book your place at holidayclub@springcommunityhub.org.uk or call 07988138997 for more information;
- A parent has passed on information about the annual 'Illuminate Rotherhithe' lantern festival and a workshop opportunity at Galleywall Nature Reserve during half term. Please see the attached flier for details;
- Some pupils may be interested in the half-term rugby camp that London Irish are holding at Southwark Rugby Club in Burgess Park. Get 15% off with code - TIGERSFEB15. Online bookings can be made at www.rugbycamps.co.uk;
- Southbank Centre - 20 Years of Imagine Children's Festival. For further details of this festival, with many of the events free of charge, follow this link: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/imagine-childrens-festival>
- Fun Activities for Families - Lewington Community Centre (for parents, carers and their children aged 0-10). Activities include arts and crafts, story-telling, music, games, family yoga, football and circus shows. Venue: Lewington Community Centre, 9 Eugenia Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 2RU. Dates: Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th & Thursday 17th February 2022. Time: 10am -2pm. For these free half term family activities, you will need to register by following this link: <https://www.parentskills2go.org/accounts/login/>

We're really looking forward to seeing everyone back for Spring 2 on Monday 21st February, smart, ready to learn and refreshed after a lovely break. **PE Days will stay the same for all children – uniform kits and plain items as usual please.**

**Wishing you and your families a super, fun-filled, happy and healthy half term.
God bless,
from the St. James' team.**