

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of another busy week and have continued to see lots of creative work around class topics and books in addition to all of the Science and STEM work children are engaging with at the moment. Year 1 went on a lovely, sunny outing on Tuesday to Southwark Park to study plants as part of their topic and Year 4 have all visited the London Wildlife Centre in Dulwich as part of their topic too. Year 5 children continue with their weekly swimming lessons which are going really well and we hope to extend this opportunity to Year 6 later on this year too. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has continued to be based around 'Living in Jesus's Way' where we've thought about the Parables of 'The Wise and Foolish Men', considering how to help others and those in need and 'A Tree & its Fruit'. Next week we'll learn about and celebrate three women of faith – Lydia, Anna and Mary. The calendar dates are attached and, as usual, slightly amended each week as we begin to have dates and bookings confirmed. Term dates (as previously mentioned) have been revised for Summer half term and are attached too.

Comic Relief Non-uniform Day – Friday 18th March

We're pleased to be supporting Comic Relief next Friday – this will be a non-uniform day in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.00 and of course, red noses and comic-relief themed accessories are welcome too! We'll celebrate this with activities and assemblies on the day and this comes at a really good time when we've been speaking about the importance of giving and generosity in our Collective Worship recently.

Parent Consultation Phone Calls

Over the next two weeks (Monday 14th March – Friday 25th March), class teachers will be phoning you to discuss children's progress so far this year/term. As usual, if you have a preferred day/time for these phone calls please do let us know via e-mail office@st-james.southwark.sch.uk and we'll pass this on to the class teacher.

Years 1 & 2 Easter Production

Miss Jess and the children in Key Stage One (Years 1&2) are doing a terrific job rehearsing for their production of 'Noah and his Ark' which will be performed on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st March at 14:00 on both days. We're thrilled to be able to welcome parents and carers back to OJR en masse to see one of our amazing shows! There is no need to book tickets, or tell us which day you are attending, we have space for 150+ seats which should be more than enough for the two performances. We always remind you to be considerate of others and ensure we provide some disabled access should you need this. Do remember these dates and be punctual on these days and only come to one of the performances to allow room for everyone to see the shows.

Parent Gym

This will start on Wednesday 16th March at Alexis St at 9.30 am. See last week's newsletter for further details, this course is highly recommended by a number of our parents who have previously attended. Call Mrs Brenta if you would like to hear more about it or if you would like to confirm your place.

Assessment Week

Next week is Assessment Week for most children – this, as ever, is just a week where children show us what they've learned so far this term/year and is vital so we can plan on extending their learning further. We always administer any tests in a really calm, relaxed environment and encourage children to simply try their best! We do these often in smaller groups and provide suitable rest breaks and support where necessary. Should children ever show any anxiety over assessments (we very rarely find they do) then do encourage them, as we would, to try their hardest and not worry!

Make an Easter Hat Day – Friday 25th March

Reception, Years 1 and 2 will be making Easter hats on the morning of Friday 25th March. Parents and carers are welcome to join your child/ren for this from 09:30. This will culminate in an Easter hat parade at 11:30 in the playground (weather permitting!) at OJR.

Easter of Food and Fun Programme – Easter Holiday Programme

Should you be looking for activities and things to do during the Easter Holidays, do think about this scheme which has been run by Southwark Council for a few years now. It promises free fun activities including cooking, dancing and sports. This will be held from Monday 4th April – Thursday 7th April, 10am-12noon or 1:30pm-3:30pm daily at the Leyton Square Children's Centre SE15 6TP. Families who are interested in joining the programme should fill in the attached form and sent it back to Andrea Ingrassia: aingrassia@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk. You can also call 0203 848 5780 for further details. Please note that in order to book a place, families will need to have at least a child aged 5- 11 years. Four year-old children who are currently attending Reception class can apply too. Priority will be given to families with children eligible for Free School Meals.

Alexis St Parking

As you are aware, we have the temporary barrier at drop off and pick up times, for the safety of all our children. This generally works well, and we know the children love to walk or ride to school and know they are safe as there are very few cars driving near to the gate. Local residents and services obviously need to have access at all times, hence we always have a member of staff positioned to move the barriers. We do ask though that if you are able to walk, cycle or scooter to school and not drive it would help with the congestion by the barrier. This is also a safety concern as space is limited and there is nowhere to turn. We have noticed an increase in vehicles trying to park by the barrier. Please avoid arriving early, in order to park nearer to the gate (before the barriers go up). Please be mindful of our staff at the barrier and of local residents who of course need to come and go.

Wishing you and your families a lovely weekend,

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