

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've had a busy week and have seen some creative work around class topics and books. Year 5 have all taken part in Virtual Reality Space Workshops this week from the Science Museum and Reception have had visitors from King's College Hospital with their 'Teddy Bear's Hospital' education programme which everyone enjoyed. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been based around 'Living in Jesus's Way' where we've thought about some of the things Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount. Next week this theme will continue with 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're really looking forward to our Science & STEM week where learning will be focused around different aspects of Computing and Engineering sciences.

World Book Day

We're delighted to be celebrating 'World Book Day' today – it's wonderful this morning to see so many imaginative costumes from children's books and we're sure children will enjoy their learning during the course of the day. We have a story-teller joining us at Key Stage One this afternoon – many thanks to Ivana (Lulu's mum) who often very kindly comes in to school to deliver super sessions! Follow her on Instagram [@storying_space](#) to see some of her amazing puppets which always bring books to life. We also have presentation celebrations together during the afternoon at Key Stage Two. Many thanks to Miss Hannaway and all involved for organising this, our first Book Day in school since March 2019!

Dates for your Diaries

The calendar dates are attached and slightly amended each week as we begin to have dates and bookings confirmed. The most recent confirmation is that our Sports Day for Years 1-6 will be held on Thursday 23rd June at Southwark Park Athletics Track which is a space we've used many times before. Do keep this date free and keep checking for dates regularly.

Revised Term Dates for the Summer Term

Another reminder that due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we're moving one of our planned inset days to Monday 6th June. School will be closed to children on this day and children will now return for Summer term 2 on **Tuesday 7th June**. We do want to give plenty of time for you in advance should you have/be thinking of making any plans. These revised dates are on the dates letters attached.

Year 6 PGL School Journey Bookings and Payments

Do e-mail the office account FAO Mrs Fox if you have any queries about payments or invoices for Year 6's residential trip in June and she'll be happy to assist with this and send invoices accordingly.

Parent Gym

We know from talking with parents that many of you wonder what you can do to give your children the best start in life (and make your life as a parent a bit easier too). This is why we're delighted once more to offer Parent Gym, a well-established, six-week programme that shares and explores practical tips and strategies to make family life easier and help your children thrive. The programme has been run successfully here at St James' many times, and we welcome new and old faces, the last course before Christmas was enjoyed by a wonderful cohort of parents. If you wish to hear how they have benefitted from Parent Gym they will be happy to chat with you, just ask Mrs Brenta. The Taster Session for our next course will be on Wednesday March 9th at 9.30am at Old Jamaica Road, please do register your interest with Mrs Brenta, cbrenta.210@lgflmail.org. Meanwhile, for further details of this parenting programme follow this link <https://parentgym.com/> The programme will then start Wednesday 16th March 2022 for 6 weeks.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer 2022-2023

Earlier this week, Year 6 heard which secondary schools they have been allocated for September. The majority seem to have been successful in getting their first choice school. If, however, your child has not been allocated a school of choice, Mrs Brenta will be happy to assist you. We have a list of secondary schools with vacancies, and your child will of course remain on waiting lists for schools that were higher up on your preference list. Places do change over the first few weeks, and with that in mind, you should wait until after 15th March, which is the date acceptance/rejections are made. If after that date you still have not been offered a school of choice do call Mrs Brenta, who will meet with you for further information to see if you have grounds for appeal (you will need to check individual secondary school admissions policy as they all differ). If you wish to **REJECT** the place offered, email schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk. If you wish to **ACCEPT** the offer there is no action required, the place will be allocated and you will hear from the secondary school in due course.

Having Difficult Conversations with Children Regarding Current Affairs

At the moment children are often very much aware of world events and in particular what is happening in Ukraine. We often watch BBC Newsround in school which prompts sensitive and, mainly really mature, sensible discussion. We know sometimes it's hard with younger children to know how to talk around a topic therefore have found the attached document giving some tips on how to broach topics such as this. There is also access to 'First News' via this link: https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/ukraine-special-report-free-access/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=205456353&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8phENY0EaHJIEj6oHyBX5cPBK1wGc8wZbKAEnjHLeKd5ldFdQ0m0lUsg1mPnxP52iMEHU_104NMtAwrhgk5xkrQNHABYCW85wX1QW4d_5pcFUGtxs&utm_content=205456353&utm_source=hs_email This lets you know how news is reported from a child's perspective if you sign up to the website.

**Wishing you and your families a super weekend!
God bless, from the St. James' team.**