

Dear Parents & Carers,

We've come to the end of another busy week where lots of fun has been had and children have produced more wonderful work! We hope everyone had a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend and took advantage of the extra day off with your families. Thank you to all parents who attended both our Nursery tours on Monday and our Year 5 Secondary school transfer meeting on Thursday. If you couldn't attend, please do contact us for any information.

You'll find the 'dates for your diaries' letter attached again as a reminder of events for the rest of the year. Do have a quick look at this as always and make a note of anything that affects you/your child/ren's year group.

Year 6/Year 2 SATs Tests

As you all know, Year 6 will sit their SATs tests next week, each morning from Monday – Thursday. They have worked incredibly hard all year, especially catching up with gaps in learning during lockdowns! We only ask that they are on time for school each day, calm, having slept well and been fed. We administer these tests in a very calm, normal classroom environment with teachers they are all used to so there is no need for anyone to worry about these tests. Year 2 will take some tests the following week, again, with no need to worry! Year 2 tests are only used to complement teacher assessment judgments and again, are only administered in a calm environment. We are extremely proud of **all** our children and all their unique talents and achievements! Tests in Maths and English, while important in their own way – only provide a very small reflection of the whole child. Encourage them to do their best, everyone's best is always good enough.

Year 3 & 4 Production and Costume Requests

Children are doing incredibly well, rehearsing for our Year 3 & 4 production which will be in the final week of term (dates and times can be found on the attached letter). I sent all parents and carers an e-mail requesting costume items to be brought in by Friday 20th May – do check your inbox for this. Many thanks for your support with this, it promises to be a terrific show!

Ukulele Lessons – Year 2

We're thrilled to announce our Year 2 children will start with their Ukulele lessons on Tuesday (10th May) until the end of the Summer term. Lessons will be held in school, during the school day, weekly. The teacher is planning a presentation performance for this to showcase all they learn – save the date of Friday 15th July (morning) for this; more details to come nearer the time.

Swimming Lessons – Year 6

Year 6 parents and carers have had a separate e-mail requesting swimming kits etc for their swimming lessons which will commence on Friday 20th May. Do check these e-mails and have children's kits ready for this date. We're so glad we managed to get these lessons booked in for Year 6 before they leave as we were aware this was a year group who hadn't had swimming lessons yet (delayed unfortunately due to lockdowns!).

Alexis St Playground Gates

Key Stage Two parents and carers will have noticed we are having a new fence fitted around the playground – this is a fairly slow process as health and safety measures dictate this can't be done while the playground is in use obviously! It is higher and restricts visibility so we will be welcoming parents and carers back in to the playground to collect children from lines, however due to safeguarding protocol we will still ask that parents must not enter the rest of the playground/school building unless through the office doors at the front of the building, being allowed in by a member of staff. Please be patient with us for now until we have two fully working gates and we'll send out information on collections at the end of the day in due course. Each morning, children are fine to be dropped at the gate and left to line up as usual. We hope the fence will all be finished before too long.

Clean Cities Campaign

It was super to welcome this organisation this morning to Alexis St to further promote clean air and walking/biking/scooting to school! Thanks to parents and carers who attended and who always show support for this. We're pleased the road closure during school times has become a permanent thing and will be pleased to announce further initiatives to promote cleaner air around our school, and of course better road safety, in due course.

SchoolsBuddy – Wraparound Care at Old Jamaica Road

For parents and carers who regularly book and use breakfast/after school club in Key Stage One, thank you – the system seems to be working really well. One query recently has been how to cancel/change a booking so the following tips might be worth trying. Thanks again for your valuable feedback as we get used to the new system. Please note that when/if you cancel, the money paid goes into the SchoolsBuddy parent wallet for you to spend another time, the money does not go back onto your card. To cancel/change a booking:

- Logon to SchoolsBuddy and go to 'activities and clubs';
- Scroll down to the activity and date you wish to cancel;
- On the right-hand side, you will see a trash can icon;
- Click on the trash can and it will ask if you wish to proceed;
- This will then cancel that booking and return the funds to your parent wallet.

Year 6 Uniform Grant for September 2022

If your child is starting at secondary school in September 2022, you may be eligible for a uniform grant from Southwark Council. Follow this link for further information and the application form, which you need to complete and return by email to Southwark.

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/information-for-parents/financial-support/clothing-grants>

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