

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another very busy and very productive week here at St. James' – a big 'well done' to all of our amazing children and the incredible work they are producing! Year 6 have taken their SAT's tests this week and I'm pleased to report they did so well; showing grit when things seemed tricky; showing optimism at all times and generally being as socially intelligent as we'd expect. We are very proud of each and every one of them and thank parents and carers for all your support for a super SAT's week. Year 6 are celebrating with a day at Burgess Park today with lots of sports and team games to mark the end of their statutory tests and our Year 6 class teachers are planning lots more trips and exciting curriculum opportunities for the rest of the academic year. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been centred around Obeying God and for the rest of this half term we'll learn about 'Jesus's Love' and 'Ascension: Jesus Reigning' and see how these verses and readings can help us in our day to day lives. You'll find the 'dates for your diaries' letter attached as usual 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 2 SATs Tests

Following Year 6's SATs this week, Year 2 will take some statutory tests next week, with no need to worry! Year 2 tests are only used to complement teacher assessment judgments and are administered in a calm, normal classroom environment. If children seem not to be doing/coping well with a test we will act accordingly and take breaks etc to ensure all children are comfortable. To re-iterate last week's words of reassurance - 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!

Swimming Lessons – Year 6

A reminder that 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 next Friday. 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!).

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip

Just a polite reminder that there are only 5 weeks (20th June 2022) until full payment for your child's PGL residential trip is due. Please contact Sharon Fox for an update on payments due or any other queries.

Family Lives Newsletter

Please follow this link for this month's newsletter from Family Lives:

<https://mailchi.mp/familylives.org.uk/family-lives-newsletter-may22?e=10e6384bfc>

There is lots of information this month for families with children starting Primary School in September.

Alexis St Playground Gates

Thank you so much for your continued patience during collection at the end of the day while the new fence is being fitted and until we have another useable gate! Unexpectedly, the installers have not been able to continue work this week which has delayed the fence further. Please do be patient with us still 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, again, that the fence will all be finished before too long!

Walk to School Week

Our school is taking part in 'Walk to School Week' (16th-20th May). The nationwide event is organised by the walking charity 'Living Streets' and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life. This year's challenge, #PowerUp, will engage pupils through video game-inspired design, encouraging them to travel sustainably to school every day of the week. Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or 'Park and Stride') to school every day for one week using a wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer? We would ask, if possible, that you plan for your child/children to travel actively to school on w/c 16th May (and in the future!), helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. In return, your child will earn special stickers and a badge. Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus/train ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Dates, Trips and Events

We're looking forward to more trips and events soon which you can find upon the updated dates letter each week and via e-mail. Next week, Year 3 are going Mudlarking on the banks of the Thames as part of their topic and class book of 'Oliver and the Seawigs'. 3 Norway will attend on Thursday 19th May and 3 Sweden on Friday 20th May. Year 6 will start their swimming lessons next Friday and Year 2 children will continue with their Ukulele lessons each Tuesday until the end of the Summer term. If parents can/would like to join children's classes on any trips, do let us know by replying to e-mails detailing these or speak to class teachers or members of the school's SLT on the gates each morning.

As always, we're wishing you and your families a super, restful weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.