

Dear Parents & Carers,

Things continue to be really busy in school; Year 2 children all worked really hard and performed wonderfully and confidently in their SATs tests this week – a big ‘well done’ to them! Year 3 have been/are attending Mudlarking trips as part of their ‘Seas & Oceans’ topic and Year 1 are visiting Buckingham Palace today as part of their ‘Kings & Queens’ topic. Year 6 swimming lessons also start today and will be each Friday for the next six weeks. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has focused on ‘Jesus’s Love’ and we’ve looked at the example He set us all and thought about all the different ways we can demonstrate love and kindness for one another.

You’ll find the ‘dates for your diaries’ letter attached as usual as a reminder of events for the rest of the year as well as our Platinum Jubilee service and celebrations next Friday. 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 3 & 4 Production – Weds 25th & Thurs 26th May @ Old Jamaica Road

We’re really looking forward to our Year 3 & 4 production which will be performed next week on Wednesday and Thursday! Productions will be held at Old Jamaica Road at 2pm and 6:15pm on both days. Children have been really enjoying, and working really hard in, their rehearsals and their production of ‘Maybe it’s Because I’m a Londoner – a Platinum Jubilee Musical’ should be really terrific! Please bring children back for 6pm to OJR on Wednesday and Thursday evenings or do let us know in advance if your child cannot make an evening performance. Thanks for your support so far with sending in costumes; please send any in on Monday if you haven’t already. There is no need to book tickets – Years 1 & 2 parents and carers all managed to attend over 2 afternoons last half term so there will be more than enough room for family members to come and see the show over 4 performances. To attend, just attend OJR for the given performance times and we’ll show you to your seats in the hall.

Punctuality

We have noticed again a number of children are arriving increasingly late every morning. It may seem like 10 minutes isn't really that much, but for a typical school day of 6.5 hours, a pupil who is late by 10 minutes every day will miss 30 hours of school time over the year. The impact on the class is even larger, as if more than one pupil is late the whole class get disrupted more than once. Being late means your child may miss vital information and more importantly their learning time, meaning they have to try and catch up with the rest of the class, and of course the teacher will not always have time to repeat what has already been taught. At KS2 on Wednesday 19 children were late for school, arriving through the office, with a total of 200 minutes lost learning time between them. We do know and completely understand that sometimes it is unavoidable, and a call to the office to let us know means we won't be chasing you to see why your child is not in school, so please do let us know if there is an unavoidable delay and you are running late.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please do let us know via an email to the office, the FREE 'Studybugs' app <https://studybugs.com/> or a call to either site. If we have not heard from you we will try to call, text or email you to find a reason, if we are unable to ascertain a reason your child will be marked with an 'Unauthorised Absence' mark, until a reason is supplied.

Alexis St Playground Gates

We haven't got too much further with this situation as the contractors haven't been in contact and haven't been back to school for 2 weeks! Nevertheless, we hope to have most of this sorted for after half term. In the meantime, thanks for all your patience waiting for a few moments longer to ensure children leave school safely. May we also remind parents dropping off/picking up at KS2, that the barrier is there for a reason - the safety of your children. We have noticed some parents are driving and parking in the restricted zone, before the barrier is in place. Please be aware that soon it will be prohibited to drive down Alexis St/Linsey St during the drop off and pick up times unless you have a permit - available to residents from Southwark Council.

Walk to School Week

We will be extending our 'Walk to School Week' and encourage everyone to continue making the effort to travel to school sustainably and safely! The event is organised by the walking charity 'Living Streets' and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. 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 continue to travel actively to school on w/c 23rd 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.

Information is attached about our recent 'School Jam' event at Alexis St as well as a family learning opportunity during half term which might be of interest.

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

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