

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy week here at St. James' where children have continued to be keen to learn and have continued to produce some wonderful work. Next week will be our final Assessment Week of the academic year where we're looking forward to seeing how all the children's new knowledge and skills are put into practice; we're sure they'll all do really well. Year 2 have continued with their Ukulele lessons; Year 6 with their swimming lessons; some Year 6 children attended a Rounders competition on Wednesday; Nursery Rome had a super seaside trip to Joss Bay on Wednesday and all children from Reception – Year 5 had History workshops delivered by a visiting specialist this week. Our Collective Worship theme for this week has been based around Jesus's 'I AM' statements. Next week we'll focus on Love 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. Do have a quick look at this as always and make a note of anything that affects you/your child/ren's year group.

'History Heroes' Workshops/Platinum Jubilee Mementos

We hope the children enjoyed and learnt a lot from their History workshops which were held on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The focus was on British History and the Monarchy as part of their History learning and also to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Lots of children will have brought home picture books published by DK about the Queen to commemorate this year's Platinum Jubilee. Year 6 are also being given a special version of the King James Bible to commemorate this too.

Open Evening – Tuesday 21st June

You are welcome to come into classrooms after school at both sites on Tuesday to look at your child/ren's books and classrooms. Children can lead you to their classrooms and, while class teachers will still be around working, do note this isn't a parents' evening – just an opportunity for you to see the children's learning. End of term reports with comprehensive information will be e-mailed at the end of term.

Sports Day – Thursday 23rd June

I'm attaching Mr. Brenta's Sports Day letter again with all the information you need for Thursday's Sports day. Many thanks to him for organising what should be a fun and successful showcase of the children's amazing sporting achievements and athletics skills this year!

Ms Hibberd's Maternity Leave

Ms Hibberd will be leaving school next Friday (24th June) in order to start her maternity leave! She's done a terrific job this year teaching Phonics and Reading at Key Stage One. I'm sure you'll all join us in wishing her the very best as she starts her exciting journey as a mummy!

Alexis Street Parking

Despite many requests not to drive and park near Alexis Street this remains an issue. School staff have to man the barriers to allow local residents access during drop off and pick up times, this will change soon to a timed barrier with ANPR and fines if you drive in the restricted area. We are fully aware that parking is limited due to the works on Cherry Garden School, as well as lorries, cement mixers etc arriving and having to wait for access to the site. This week has been particularly busy, especially in the morning. One local resident has complained as they were unable to get through due to cars parked, cars turning, and a lorry awaiting access to the building site. It is also really not acceptable to say that 'it is just for today' if you have arrived before the barrier and parked in the restricted area, thus having to have the barrier moved when you are leaving.

A number of families and pupils walking independently (which we encourage) are putting safety at risk around the Macks Road/Alexis Street area due to the number of vehicles turning and parking. If you really have to drive, we would ask you please to consider parking further afield and walking the last few minutes of your journey. We welcome any comments and suggestions if you have any, please send them to Mrs Brenta via the office as she is currently completing our School Travel Plan - where we have been on Gold for the last few years and of course would like to remain so. Part of the plan is a reduction in car journeys so by leaving the car at home and walking to school would help us stay on Gold. On this note, please also remember to keep children with you and not on the road where possible. While the streets are much safer, cars do sometimes still need access so the roads are not car free – this has just significantly reduced! Thanks so much to everyone for your co-operation.

Next Week/Upcoming Events

Ukulele and swimming lessons will continue next week, some Year 6s will be representing the school in a local girls' football competition on Wednesday and we'll have our Sports Day on Thursday at Southwark Park. Do remember to save the dates from the attachment letter – particularly for our Open Evening next Tuesday where children will take you to their classrooms to show you their learning in books.

See attached flyer from Harris Academy (Girls) Open Day schedule for current Y5 girls.

We're wishing you, your families and our whole school community a super, sunny weekend!

God bless,

from the St. James' team.