



St James' RC Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th September

Twitter: @stjamesrc

Issue 1

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

As you know we have sadly started the academic year with tragic news concerning a parent in our school community. Thank you for your sensitivity as we navigate this together. Our priority is to support the children who have lost a parent but we are also focusing on all of the children in our care. We know this support will need to be in place for the many days, weeks, months and indeed years ahead and we will do this to the best of our ability.

Please know that we are also here to support all of the parents at St James' and the wider community as we all try to come to terms with this loss.

We know that this is going to be very difficult time but together we are strong. Father David has visited each classroom and we thank him and the Governors for their help and prayers at this time. As I said in my letter to you this week, one of the strengths of our community is the way we come together in times of adversity. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family during this time.

Although we are all grieving, there have still been moments of hope and joy. It has been wonderful seeing all of our children return to school and see how excited they are about the year ahead. We have welcomed some new children to KS2 who we are delighted to have at St James' and we are pleased to also welcome Mrs Ettridge. We of course are also pleased to meet our new Reception children. I am sure that they will be very happy at St James' and we are so pleased to have them as part of our school community.

I would also like to thank all of our families for getting the children to school on time and would remind you that early work in class begins at 8:45am and the front school gate opens at 8:40.

We ask all children to be in school by 8:55am and this is when the front gate closes.

Please remember to wait with your KS1 children on the KS1 playground until classrooms open at 8:45am.

KS2 can make their own way into school from the school gates after saying goodbye to parents. Only Year 6 are allowed to make their own way to school.

Breakfast and After School Club are back and the children are all enjoying playing together. They all seem to be having fun inside the hall and ICT Suite and outside on the field and apparatus. Please contact the office to get details about Breakfast and After School Club if you would like your child to attend these sessions.

External clubs before and after school and at lunchtimes are returning and hopefully you have already received all the information about these.

If you need to contact teachers please either continue to contact them by email via the office or see them at the end of the day. We ask that you only use Seesaw for children to post their homework.

I am restarting my usual open-door Head teacher Surgery and will be available every Wednesday morning from 9:00-9:30am to meet with parents if they need to speak to me. No appointments at this time would be necessary so please come to the school office. Of course, if you would like to speak to me at other times please contact the office and I will be in touch as soon as I can. I am also available at the gate most mornings and afternoons.

We will continue to communicate with you via the weekly newsletter, the website, by emails and letters, by notices on the notice board and via twitter. At the moment we have 204 followers on TWITTER. Please follow us at @stjamesrc

Please remember that we do not encourage children to bring in sweets or cakes for their birthdays and would suggest instead that if children would like to, they can donate a book to their classroom or something small for the garden. Other healthy options that have been brought in have been pencils or fruit. Birthdays are of course important and we will continue to celebrate them in school.

We started the week by talking in assembly about Catholic Virtues. This term we will be thinking about the word **courage** and what this means. Children will have a chance to nominate other children that they see demonstrating courage at school. These nominations go on display in the school hall.

Munchkins started back with us this week and they are teaching one session a week of PE to each class.

I hope that you find the autumn term parent information letters that are being sent out to you next week useful. They contain the information that you may have missed if you have been unable to attend the Class Briefings that are taking place.

I would like to say thank you to Year 6 who have all been allocated responsibilities across the school. These duties include looking after children in younger classes, organising the prayer table and helping in the dining hall. They have settled into their new roles extremely well and are such positive role models for the rest of the school.

Each week the class teachers let everyone know in our Friday Celebration Assembly who their 'Pupil of the Week' is. To celebrate these children, I have a tea party with them on Friday afternoons.

In assembly on Fridays, we also like to hear about awards that children have won outside of school so please encourage children to tell us about their achievements and bring in their awards.

The Daily Mile is starting again with renewed energy. This is an initiative that enables all children to jog or run at their own pace for 10 minutes every day. Everyone has fun taking part – it is not P.E. and it is not competitive – while building

relationships, confidence and resilience. This can be summed up as Fun, Fresh Air, Friends, Fitness and Focus – and the children enjoying a sense of Freedom.

The KS2 Reading Passports have now been sent out and we will be promoting them in school this term. Please encourage your children to complete them so that they can achieve their certificates at the end of the term. They are due back on Friday 8th December.

Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) music lessons are starting again. St James' is so proud of all of the amazing children that play instruments at the school. We are very lucky to have peripatetic music teachers in a variety of instruments who offer exceptionally high-quality music sessions to suit each child. If you would like information about any lessons please email the school office and we will pass the request to the BYMT music teacher. If children would like to play their instrument in assembly please ask them to speak to Miss Atkinson. We would love to listen to our talented musicians.

If you would like to volunteer in the school garden please contact Mrs Deasy via the office and she would be delighted to talk to you about how you would like to help.

Finally, some staff attended the funeral of Harry McAleer today. Harry was a young man who attended St James' not so long ago with his sister Kate and his brother Teddy. I personally remember him as an incredibly talented child who excelled at everything. However, it was his kindness and gentleness that I remember him the most for. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Please look after yourselves and remember to reach out if there is anything that we can support you with. Our door is always open and we are always ready to listen.

God Bless.

Mrs Weeks

Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at St James' is Mrs Weeks and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Wilson and Mrs Richards. Please contact us via the school office if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Dates for your Diary

Please see the dates below. We will send out more details over the course of the term.

September

Monday 11th / Tuesday 12th Reception stay for lunch
Monday 11th: 2:45 Year 6 Class Briefing
Tuesday 12th: 2:45 Year 5 Class Briefing
Tuesday 12th 6pm Secondary Transition Meeting for Y5 and Y6 parents
Wednesday 13th Reception stay all day and can start Breakfast and After School Club
Thursday 14th: Whole School Mass (Yr 6) Together Again/St James
Friday 15th: International Day of Democracy
Tuesday 19th 5:30 EEDI Meeting
Wednesday 20th Y3 ScootSure
Thursday 21st: International Day of Peace
Thursday 21st 2:50: Meeting for Parent Reading Volunteers
Friday 22nd Jeans for Genes Day
Tuesday 26th 6:30 PTA AGM
Wednesday 27th: St Vincent de Paul Feast Day
Wednesday 27th CAFOD Assembly and workshop
Wednesday 27th: 6:30 KS1 Phonic Parent Talk
Thursday 28th: 9:15 CAFOD Walk

October

Month of Prayer and Devotion to Our Lady
Black History Month
Wednesday 4th 6:30 KS2 Reading Comprehension Parent Talk
Thursday 5th: Whole school Mass (Harvest) Year 4
Thursday 5th: National Poetry Day
Friday 6th CAFOD Family Fast Day
Monday 9th-Friday 13th Y6 to PGL
Tuesday 10th: World Mental Health Day
Wednesday 11th Y4 to Hindu Temple
Friday 13th P4C Afternoon
Monday 16th-Friday 27th Half Term Holiday

OAKIES

Can parents please remember they need to book sessions through ParentPay.

PTA NEWS

I hope everyone had a nice summer break and are settling back into the school term.

Welcome to the new Reception children and parents. Please can all new parents email pta.stjamesprimary@gmail.com so we can include you on our mailing list.

We are pleased to announce we will have tickets for sale for this year's Christmas pantomime 'Cinderella' on the 12th of Dec @5.30pm. We will send the booking forms out next week. We have limited tickets so it will be on a first come first served basis.

During the summer the PTA funded a repaint in the school house. Mrs Weeks has said an excellent job was done and it now looks fresh.

Unfortunately, we are not able to continue with Ice Cream Fridays due to lack of helpers to purchase and restock weekly. During the Autumn and Winter months there is less interest so we hope to have this back in Spring term.

Dates for the Diary

PTA meeting - 26th September
Break the Rules Day – 21st November
Christmas Fair - 25th November
Panto 12th of December





