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## St James' Church of England Junior School

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**Headteacher:** Mr Andrew Beattie

*"With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together."*

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10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It feels slightly odd that I am writing to you with a week to go before the Summer Holidays. My current thoughts around school are obviously tinged with sadness that all children have been robbed of a good proportion of their school year. This is usually a time of year where we are frantically trying to rehearse lines for a summer production; or gather for a summer guitar concert; or tally up points on a close-run (and often rainy!) sports day. These experiences have sadly passed, but I am also filled with immense pride at what other experiences, and learning, and progress we have managed to achieve despite the bleakest of circumstances.

That has only been possible due to the terrific hard work of my staff but also the resilience and enthusiasm of our school families. Affording some time to break away from school reports last night, I had a look through children's Seesaw journals and the 'Why Don't You?' school Facebook page. Despite what has felt like a really traumatic experience for, I'm sure, many of us, we shouldn't lose sight of the brilliant and positive things we have achieved: children have continued to learn, to grow and, importantly, they have continued to have fun. Nothing demonstrates better than our 'Toilet Roll Sports Day' photos!!

School reports alongside attendance reports will be completed and sent out via email on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Could we also please remind anyone, who has not already, to try and drop any school library books back into school, especially Years 6s, and those with school iPads that they will be collected during the afternoon of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>.

We will continue to put our box on the front yard for any school library books and/or letters for teachers. We are more than happy to forward these on to teachers on your behalf. Alternatively, those families/children desperate to pass on a gift in person, then they can do so in September.

As you will be aware, the government issued key guidance to all school last Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July regarding the full reopening of schools. This came as great relief to us all that we would be finally able to open the doors to the full school community. How we actually do that safely takes a little more thought and time but our plans have developed well over the last week and we will share exact details following a government guidance update on the 11<sup>th</sup> August. Clearly, we want to make sure that we are sharing the correct messages in a simple way, so it seems sensible to hold on until then. Thinking about September, we are



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

aware that there will be a lot of worry from children and families about what school will be like. This I'm sure will be across all year groups but understandably more for our Year 2 new arrivals.

With this in mind, we will be sending out a number of key presentations, videos and letters via email to all families so that children get a visual guide as to how school will look. We have also factored in extra pastoral support from staff to ease that transition back into formal schooling.

In order to be prepared fully for the start of the school year, the school will take 2 INSET days Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and welcome all children back on the Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We are also wanting to invite our Year 3 children in to visit the school with their parents on the afternoon of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to see their classroom and new teacher in the flesh. We are hopeful that this will help ease any worries before a full reopening on Thursday.

Next week, we will also be hosting our new class Zooms offering the chance for children to come together remotely and meet their new teacher and new class mates. During the zoom, there will be opportunity for children to discuss the changes in approach.

All zoom meetings will be held at 3:45pm (For new classes in September)

Monday – Mr Tyson & Mrs Pickering/Miss Morgan

Wednesday – Mr King & Mrs Kitchin (Mrs Milligan will deputise for this)

Thursday - Mrs Foye & Mr Carruthers

All zoom invites will be sent out today. Please get in touch on Monday if you haven't received this invite.

Enjoy the weekend and stay safe

Best Regards



Mr A Beattie  
Head teacher

