



St James' Church of England Junior School

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

5th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of our 2023/24 school year. I hope that you have all managed to have some relaxation and fun over the summer break and the children are looking forward to starting a new school year with us.

Staff here are recharged after the summer break and have been working hard over the last two days getting classrooms and lessons prepared for the children arriving tomorrow morning.

I have provided some further details and reminders for new parents which may assist you in these initial weeks:

Entrance– Children will congregate on the front yard with staff coming out to greet children and lead the class lines into school. Each class will have a sign to show where children are to line up once the school bell is rung. The bell rings at 8:45 a.m. with lessons starting upon the children entering the classroom. It is therefore worth stressing the importance of punctuality so that learning time isn't missed.

Exits – Children will always exit from the same point so once we are familiar, this is very straightforward. Whilst parents are getting used to the exits, we will have all classes signposted and I will be on the yard to assist and direct parents. In simple terms, our younger children will exit from the ramp, near the basketball court (left hand side of the school if you are facing it) and the older children exit from the big blue gate (right hand side of the school if you are facing it). Policy does state that we allow our Year 5 & 6 children to leave the site on their own to walk home or meet parents nearby. However, parental consent for this must be shared with teachers beforehand. We will not be allowing Year 5 & 6 children to exit on their own without your prior consent.

Parking – Drop off and collection times are understandably busy with 160 children entering and leaving site. We ask you to be sensitive to local residents in your parking, park away from school as much as possible to allow safe crossing of roads for our young children. The school will have bollards around the school which are areas used for children crossing so these zones must not be parked on or nearby.



Absence reporting - All absences must be made to the office by phone, and not via email or Seesaw. It is ok to leave an answerphone message if we are unable to answer but please provide details to avoid us needing to call you back. Please also try and make all absence notifications by 9:15 a.m.

SchoolMoney- for existing children SchoolMoney logins should remain the same and the system will be synced in the early hours of Wednesday morning to allocate new year groups and classes. Lunch menus and EBASC booking will then also be possible. Until then, children will be able to order meals in registration and EBASC can be booked by calling or emailing the office. A reminder that children can choose their lunch options via SchoolMoney at home and children can dip between hot meals and packed lunch on any given week.

SchoolMoney New Students - many of our new parents will be familiar with SchoolMoney as it is the same system used at the infant's school. The system will be synced in the early hours of Wednesday morning (this is the day that the children become officially on our 'roll'). Parents will receive log in welcome emails during the day on Wednesday that will allow them to start accessing the system to order dinners, make payments and book EBASC sessions. If any parents have any issues please don't hesitate to contact the office. All children will be able to access school dinners and EBASC even before SchoolMoney is enabled as children can order dinners in registration and EBASC can be booked by calling or emailing the office.

PE kits - the majority of orders placed before the holidays have been despatched either with children before the Summer break or via the infant's school. We will endeavour to get all orders placed during the holidays (and any remaining from before the holiday) sent home with children by the end of the week. If you have not received the all items you have ordered by Friday then please contact the office and we will check orders and help resolve any issues. For the new year 3 children, payment items will be created on SchoolMoney as soon as the system is synced with the new children data and you will be able to make payments. If you have not yet ordered, please speak to the school office who will be able to assist you.

Second hand uniform – Again, we will be putting out a stall tomorrow after school and every Friday (weather permitting) with boxes of second-hand uniform. Parents can take what they need and leave a suitable donation in an honesty box. To help stock this, if any families have any outgrown uniform including hoodies, trousers, skirts, polo shirts and PE kit that they would like to donate, we would be grateful in receiving this to build the stock on our second-hand uniform stall.

Homework – Homework this year will focus on the important skills of reading, spelling and times tables. Children in Year 3-5 that will have an additional optional task that may involve research or a creative task. Children in Year 6 will also focus on reading, spelling and timetables but will also complete short online tasks using platforms that have been used successfully in Year 6 classes over the past few years. They will not be offered the further optional task. School is able to loan out refurbished laptops for those children needing to gain access to an online device to help with homework. Please see the office who can help you if you would require a laptop.

Communications – School will continue to email out a weekly newsletter that will be also posted on the school website on a Friday. School will contact reminders when needed and teachers may also use Seesaw Family to send out general information to parents specific to the class. Please follow link below to sign up for Seesaw Family. Families who are already signed up to Seesaw Family App, your login should now log in to your child's new teacher.



Bassenthwaite (Mrs Pickering) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/737-215-145>
Buttermere (Miss A Pool) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/729-581-752>
Derwentwater (Mr Carruthers) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/130-459-812>
Ennerdale (Mr Tyson) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/441-593-454>
Ullswater (Mrs Foye) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/214-349-521>
Windermere (Miss L Pool) - <https://app.seesaw.me/s/992-502-386>

Morning snack/drinks – all children should bring in their own water bottles that can be filled using the water coolers around school. We ask that these are used for water or cordial and no fizzy drinks should ever be brought into school. We will offer a tuckshop for morning break (starting from Monday 11th). For 20p children can buy a piece of fruit, a waffle, croissant or brioche. We also invite children to bring in their own snack if these would rather not use the tuckshop. Crisps, chocolates, sweets or anything other than fruit, breaded products or cereal bars should be brought in as a morning snack.

For new parents, we appreciate that there is a lot of new information already shared and contained within this letter and many new routines for parents and children to get used to. We are here to help and all staff will always be visible to parents to help guide us through these initial few weeks. Be reassured that the children here get used to these routines very quickly and often settle very quickly after the summer break or change of school. However, if you have any questions on any of the above information, or any other matters regarding school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

As always, may I offer thanks from myself and staff for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Beattie
Head teacher

