



St James' Church of England Junior School

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"With exploring minds, and faith, we achieve our challenging goals."

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Welcome to this week's newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

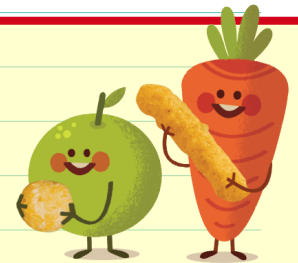
It is great to see all of the children back in school this week looking so smart - at least at the start of the day! It has been great catching up with our returning pupils and getting to hear about their summer breaks and also getting to know our new pupils who have been busy getting used to the various routines, classrooms and best hiding places on the playground. At St James' we encourage frequent discussions with our parents and endeavour to work together continuously for the best of our children. All staff will be on the yard every morning, including myself, so please feel free to catch us to pass on any snippets of info. Staff are also available at the end of the day and have a little more time for a more in-depth chat once the children are off site, so please come and say hello.

Uniform

The children look so smart in their uniforms and not complained at all about breaking in their new shoes. We do have a "Nearly-New Uniform Shop" in school. If you would like to have a look at this or would like to collect some spare, hoodies, cardigans, jumpers and PE equipment, please come into the office and speak to Mrs Maiden or Miss Blakeney. We ask for a very small charitable donation for any clothes taken, thank you.

Healthy Tuck Shop

As is tradition, our Year 6 children will again run our Healthy Tuckshop at play-time. For 20p the children can pick up some fruit, brioche or pancakes to keep them fuelled in the late morning session. For those choosing to send snacks in, we ask that the snacks are either fruit, snack bars or a bread product. Crisps, chocolate or fruit winders are not allowed. Thank you.



Exit Procedures

Hopefully by now you are becoming more familiar with where the children exit from at the end of the school day. We will continue to signpost the exits over the next week. For safeguarding reasons, all Year 3 and 4 children **must** be collected by a recognised adult and will not be dismissed by their teacher otherwise. Year 5 and 6 children are allowed to walk home or to meet their parents but would always ask that you explain any changes to procedures to the class teacher. Thankyou.



Music Lessons

For those pupils who would like to take up guitar or keyboard lessons, we will be holding auditions next week. This will be held on Thursday for guitar and Friday for keyboard.

Monday – Guitar Years 5 and 6

Thursday – Guitar Year 4 and auditions

Friday – Keyboard all pupils

Playtime

We are always trying to improve what we can offer children at break times so if anyone has got any LEGO, Duplo or other outdoor toys and games suitable for our Juniors, any donations would be greatly received.

Volunteer Readers

Do you have some spare time each week? We have been lucky enough to build a team of reading volunteers who come into school for an afternoon each week/fortnight to listen to and support with children's reading. Unfortunately many of those parents have now had their child move on to secondary so we are looking for other volunteers to add to our team. It doesn't need to be a regular commitment but if you have some time please speak to myself, school office or Mrs Foye (Assistant Head).

Key Dates for parents this term

Parents Open Morning (Spelling) - Tuesday 24th Sep (9am-10am) A chance to join your child in class and see some of the ways that we support spelling in school.

Parents Evening Wed 6th Nov (3:30 – 5pm)
 Thur 7th Nov (3:30 – 7pm)



Parent payments- School Grid/ParentMail

School Grid is now up and running for school dinners, if you haven't had an email in please can you go the Office. Menu's are available on the system for you to look at, pre-order and payments can be made and direct debits set up.

ParentMail is still being used for other payments and log-in details will be sent to new parents shortly.



Homework and Reading Records

All Homework will be handed out on Thursday and handed in on Wednesday. In addition we ask that children record a minimum of 3 reading diary entries per week that are signed off by the parent each night. This will be checked by teachers weekly.

Curriculum Plans

Today, this newsletter will be partnered with a letter from your class teacher outlining plans for the year and with other class specific information for PE days, etc. If there is any uncertainty in the arrangements for PE, or indeed any other matter, please speak to class teacher.

PTA

Again, we are looking to build up our team of volunteers who support the school PTA 'Friends of St James'. We have been blessed over the last two years to have an amazing team of committed people who have helped both organise and run many school events. This has helped us raise over £2500 that has been used to make improvements to the playground and play equipment over the last two years. If you are interested and can commit even a small bit of time, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested please speak to the school office or Mr King (Assistant Head).

For this newsletter, we have printed out a paper copy. All subsequent newsletters will come via email so if you are not receiving them can you please contact the school office. Newsletters will now be sent out on the first Friday of every month and not weekly as was previously the case.

As ever, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about any aspect of school life.

Mr Beattie

