



Newsletter Thursday 12th May 2022

The end is in sight of another school year and as we enter the Summer Term there are lots of important dates coming up for your diaries. Sports days, Jubilee celebrations, performances and church services are all on the agenda and as always, we look forward to seeing parents and carers supporting their children at these events.

Sports day

Rec: Monday, 4th July – 9:40am – 11:15am

KS1: Monday, 4th July – 2:00pm – 3:10pm

LKS2: Wednesday, 6th July – 1:45pm – 3:10pm

UKS2: Tuesday, 5th July – 1:45pm – 3:10pm



Important diary dates

6th May – 25th May: KS1 SATs

9th May – 13th May: KS2 SATs

25th May – Wear Red, White and Blue for Jubilee Celebrations

June – Phonics Screening Check for Y1 and Times Table Check for Y4

13th – 17th June: 6L Swimming Lessons

20th – 24th June: 6D Swimming Lessons

12th July: Y6 Leavers' Performance in school – time to be confirmed

15th July: Transition Day for pupils – meeting their new teacher for next year.

19th July: Year 6 Leavers' Service at St. James' Church

20th July: School closes at 2:00pm

Further information will be sent out nearer the time of these events.

Litter and Dog Fouling

Recently, we have noticed an increased amount of litter and dog mess around the school's surroundings. I know that this is not down to our parents or carers, and I am going to contact our local councillor to see if more can be done to ensure the school and its surrounding areas are kept clean and safe for all of our children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that dogs are NOT PERMITTED on school grounds – even if they are carried. We ask that if you do come to school with a dog, you leave it in the care of a trusted person at the school gate.



KS1 and KS2 SATs

This week, all the children in Y2 and Y6 have been doing their Standard Assessment Tests or SATs for short. The tests involve separate papers on spelling, grammar, reading, arithmetic and mathematical reasoning. The last time these tests were done was in 2019, before the pandemic. I have to say the children have been an absolute credit to St. James, and to their parents and carers. Never mind the fact that they have missed so much school over the last two years, they have worked incredibly hard this year and have taken the tests in their stride. I am so proud of each and every one of them and no matter what the outcomes are, I know how talented, bright and full of potential all of our children are.

To paraphrase Walt Disney – If they can dream it, they can do it!

A huge well done to all of our Y2 and Y6 children!

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

As part of our celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, here at St. James we will be having a Jubilee Red, White and Blue themed day on Wednesday, 25th May. On that day, children can come into school dressed in red, white and blue clothes. During the day, they will take part in activities centered around Queen Elizabeth's historic Platinum Jubilee. There will be a special meal on the day and hopefully, weather permitting, we will be able to have a whole school picnic outside.



Internet access and social media

Social media and the online activities of some of our children continue to cause issues both inside and outside of school.

Whilst we wish to encourage the independence of our children, we advise parents and carers to regularly talk with their children about online safety and check their devices frequently and parental controls are in place.

E-Safety is a key part of our computing curriculum, but the internet still holds many hidden dangers, and we want our children to be able to enjoy them safely and not put themselves at risk.



Uniform

Please can I remind parents and carers that the only jewellery that children are allowed to wear in school are stud earrings. Hoop earrings are a health and safety risk, as are necklaces and these should not be worn in school. If a child is wearing hoop earrings, we will ask them to remove them for health and safety reasons.

Watches are permitted – however we are seeing some children coming into school wearing smart watches and fit bits. These are expensive items and as such, school accepts no liability should the watch be lost or damaged.

We are constantly finding cardigans, jumpers and lunch boxes left around school and several times this year, parents have become angry with staff when their child has lost an item. This problem could be easily solved if all your child's items were labelled clearly with their names.

We will always endeavour to ensure lost property is reunited with its owner, but it does help if it is labelled!

Congratulations to Linda and all the kitchen staff on ensuring we received a 5* Environmental Health rating – I would have expected nothing less, but it is always nice to have it confirmed that the standards in our school kitchen are of the highest quality and comply with the law.

Language and Behaviour

I previously sent out a message to all parents, regarding the conduct and language of some parents and carers in and around school grounds. I wish to emphasise again that such behaviour will not be tolerated. We are role-models for our children, and they are quick to copy the actions and words of adults around them. I ask that all parents and carers conduct themselves in an appropriate manner whilst in and around school grounds. Bad language or inappropriate gestures will not be tolerated and may result in guilty parties not being allowed on school grounds.

I ask for your co-operation and consideration in this matter.

Community Hub

The Jesuscina Foundation has a Community Fridge at the Community Hub in The Church Centre on Willington Street (M18 8RJ). It is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 12 noon. The fridge will be open to everyone in the community without the need to book appointments. It is a communal place where surplus food is redistributed within the local areas. The aim behind this initiative is to help people bond, access food, save money and in the long run reduce the amount of waste food that goes into landfill.



Mr. Connolly's Jubilee Challenge

Answer the questions below and be in with a chance to win a prize!

Once complete, please return to school.

Name: _____ Class: _____

1. How many children does Queen Elizabeth have?
2. When did Queen Elizabeth become Queen?
3. How old was she when she became Queen?
4. How many years has Queen Elizabeth been Queen?
5. What is the name of the place where Queen Elizabeth lives in London?
6. What type of dog does Queen Elizabeth love?
7. True or False: The Queen is Britain's longest reigning monarch.
8. The Queen's birthplace is now:

- A: A pub
- B: A shoe shop
- C: A museum
- D: A Chinese restaurant