



## Newsletter Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Principal's Message



Welcome back to a brand-new year at St. James. Where did Summer go?? New beginnings can be a little bit scary and a little bit daunting for both adults and children, but I was so happy to see all the smiling faces – including parents and carers – as we re-opened our gates on Monday. The children at St. James are some of the most resilient I have ever met, and I know that they will take up the challenges that this year will throw at them and do their very best to adapt, overcome and succeed. We have lots of exciting things planned this year and are hoping for even more parent/carers involvement in the life of our school – so please sign up to Dojo if you have not done so and make sure you don't miss out.

### Welcome to all our new pupils, families and staff

From Monday we have welcomed new families and their children in Nursery, Reception and across the school and it is great to hear that they are settling into new routines and life at a brand-new school. We will do whatever we can to support our children, so if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to discuss these with your child's class teacher.

As well as pupils, we also welcome Miss Dawkes (Y5), Miss Gibson (Y3), Miss Smith (Y1) and Mr. Quarton (Y1) to our teaching staff along with Mr. Rafferty who will be a TA working with Miss Schofield in our Beehive class.



### **Uniform: A Reminder**

All of our children looked incredibly smart on Monday as they returned to school and I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that our uniform is available to purchase through school, through the Arbor App and consists of:

- black/grey skirt/trousers
- white polo shirt
- blue school jumper/cardigan
- black shoes
- black headscarf
- hair accessories should be black, blue, yellow or white in colour
- blue and white summer dress (summer only)
- NO JEWELLERY is permitted aside from watches or stud earrings – this is a health and safety issue. Any child arriving at school wearing anything but the permitted jewellery will be asked to remove it.
- No nail polish or false nails

For PE:

Indoor kit –

- bare feet or rubber soled pumps
- white t-shirt
- black shorts/leggings

Outdoor kit –

- training shoes
- white t-shirt
- black tracksuit bottoms/leggings
- school jumper



We will continue to allow children to arrive in their kit on the day they have PE.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM!**

### **After-School Club Activities**

We are aiming to start after-school clubs and activities from next week onwards. Teachers will be sending out letters and permission slips in the coming days. Some clubs have limited places so make sure that responses are returned to school as soon as possible.



### School Dinners

A reminder to parents and carers of children who have school lunches. The cost per meal is being dropped from £2.50 per lunch (£12.50 per week) to £2.35 per lunch (£11.75 per week). Payments are made using the Arbor app. If you are unsure how to use this, please see Miss Harvey at the school office and she will be happy to help.



### Attendance and Punctuality

Last year our whole school attendance figure was 92.3%. This was below the national average of 94%

We **cannot** stress how important it is for your child to be on time and in school every day.

We understand that illness happens and that can not be helped but research shows that the more school days a child misses, the greater the impact on their chances of academic success in the future. Being absent from school can also hinder your child's ability to make and maintain lasting friendships.

If you need assistance or help regarding attendance and/or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

I would also like to remind all parents that children should only be taken out of school for urgent medical appointments and hospital appointments during the school day. All **non-urgent** appointments should be made outside of school time. Please do not be offended if you are asked to provide proof of the appointment.



### Behaviour and Safety



Our children's safety is our number one concern, and I am sure that this is something we can agree on. We continue to stress the importance of road safety to the children but also to those of our parents and carers who drive to school.

If you do drive your child to school, please ensure that you **DO NOT** park on corners or on the zig-zag lines outside the gates. Parking and stopping on zig-zag lines outside of school is prohibited – even if you are only dropping off!

Using two gates has helped alleviate the problem slightly but we do encourage families who live close to school to walk rather than drive if possible.

On a few occasions last year, it was brought to my attention that some parents and carers had been overheard using inappropriate language in and around school premises. As adults we must be the role models and set the highest standards of behaviour for our children to follow. Can I please ask that when in and around school at drop off and pick up time that parents and carers take care with their language and behaviour around our children.

If there are issues between children, I also ask that parents take the matter up with the class teacher or arrange an appointment to see me so that we can deal with it as a school matter.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.



### Parents' Evening

Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

Parents' evenings will take place on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October (3:30 – 7:00) and Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October (3:30 – 5:00).

Letters will be sent out nearer to the time and it is vital that you attend. Parent' evening allows your child's teacher to share with you their success, the progress they have made and any areas they need to be working on more. It is also an opportunity for you to bring up any concerns or ask any questions.