



Newsletter Friday, 27th January 2023

Principal's Message



Firstly, a slightly belated Happy New Year to all our children and families at St. James. A new year has begun and with it brings the promise of a fresh start, hope and changes for the better.

Sadly, as you are aware, we said goodbye to Miss List before the Christmas break but from next week we will be welcoming our new Reception teacher Mrs Williamson. She is very excited to meet her new class and will do so very soon.

We understand that change can be difficult and sometimes a little frightening and as such we will handle the transition very carefully.

Diary Dates

February 14th: Valentines Discos - £1 per ticket – refreshments on sale



EYFS, Y1 & Y2: 3:45 – 4:45 (Children can bring disco clothes to change into after school)

Y3, 4, 5 & 6: 5:00 – 6:30

March 2nd: World Book Day – Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY





Attendance

Up until just before the Christmas holidays, St James had the best attendance in the whole of the Vantage Academy Trust – 94.4%. However, in the lead up to Christmas there was lots of illness, and this has dropped quite a bit and since returning to school, it has not picked back up.

Mrs. Harvey and I monitor attendance very closely and will again be arranging meetings with parents of children whose attendance is 90% or less.

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 cannot 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.

As our registers close at 9:30, any child arriving after that time is classed as having an unauthorised absence. We ask that parents make a real effort to ensure their children are in school on time every day.

St James' attendance policy is also available on the school website.

Attendance Figures

Whole School Attendance as of 27/01/23: 92.5%	
Nursery: 77.9%	Reception: 89.3%
Y1: 92.6%	Y4: 93.7%
Y2: 93.6%	Y5: 94.4%
Y3: 92.1%	Y6: 95.5%

For children in Reception, it is crucial that they are in school as much as possible. Learning in Reception prepares the children for the move into KS1 and if they miss out on key learning whilst in EYFS, it makes that jump much more difficult.



Rev. Craig

Sadly Rev. Craig will be leaving Gorton at the end of February. He has done so much for our local area from litter picking to helping our families in times of need. Rev. Craig has been a familiar figure in and around school too as he has regularly come in to support some of our younger children with their reading as well as deliver whole school assemblies based on our Christian values.

Rev. Craig will be moving to a parish in New Zealand for a year before returning to the UK to retire and enjoy a well-deserved rest. I am sure we will all miss him and wish him all the very best. BON VOYAGE Rev. Craig and WAIMARIE! (Good luck in Maori)



Guinea Pigs

As mentioned above, Rev. Craig will be leaving Gorton and St. James at the end of February...unfortunately his wife will not be able to take her beloved 3 Guinea Pigs with her.

Rev. Craig has asked me to see if any of our families would be willing to adopt the 3 furry friends – which come with a hutch.

There will be no charge for this as he and his wife would love to see them go to a good home where they will be loved and cared for. So, if you are interested, please contact the school office and we can pass on your details to Rev. Craig.



Help find us a home!



PE Kit

We have previously sent home information about appropriate PE kit in school, but we are noticing more and more children coming in wearing a variety of different sports wear in a range of colours.

The school PE kit is navy blue/black shorts with a white t-shirt. For outdoor PE, a plain grey/navy blue or black tracksuit is acceptable.

As with school uniform, any deviations are not acceptable and in order to encourage our children to wear the correct kit we are including correct kit in our 'Strive for 5' count.

This means that if all children in the class are wearing appropriate PE kit, they can add to their count and earn extra playtime. Children wearing correct kit will also be rewarded with Dojos.



Issues

As always, we continue to ask parents whose children may have issues with children in their class or other children within school to please bring these to the attention of Mr. Connolly or the class teacher so that school can deal with them. We do not want parents approaching children other than their own and ask that school is left to handle any problems.