



NEWSLETTER

Publication 2

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ST JAMES'
CE ACADEMY

The children continue to adjust very well to the ongoing changes in school which is beginning to get back to a more normal routine and they should be congratulated for their effort, attitude and attendance during the first half term. I hope you all have an enjoyable half term and that when we return we will be able to make even more changes towards normal school life.

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Thank you and Welcome

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Leonard who has done a great job of teaching in Year 1 and now Year 2 this year. The children have really enjoyed their time with her and she will continue to be seeing many of them during their Read, Write Inc sessions.

We would also like to welcome back Mrs Lyons to Year 2, who will be in for some days before returning properly in December. We will also be welcoming Mrs Ellerington, who will be teaching our Year 2 class alongside Mrs Hunter and then Mrs Lyons.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are delighted that the children have attended so well during the first half term. A good attendance record has a very positive impact on children's achievement, their ability to socialise and their emotional well being. Please remember that we are unable to authorise any absence due to holidays taken during term time and that penalty notices may be issued to parents of children who are absent due to a holiday (£60 per parent, per child). Holidays during term time can seriously disrupt children's learning. Not only do they miss the teaching provided on the days they are away, they are also less prepared for the lessons building on this learning after their return. As a result, your child's progress will be seriously slowed and there may also be a future risk of underachievement.

It is also essential that children arrive at school **on time** to ensure they do not miss out on any of their learning or cause disruption to the learning of others. Breakfast club is open daily for working parents from 7.45am and costs £1 per child per day. Please remember that children can arrive at breakfast club up to 8:20am.

Children should not be on the school site before 8.40 am unless they are attending the breakfast club. Classrooms are open from 8:45 am and registration is at **8:55 am**. Any child arriving after 8:55 am should report to the school office.

Harvest

Thank you for your generous donations towards our Harvest Festival collection. These will be passed on to our local community to support those most in need at this time. In addition, the Key Stage 2 children returned to St. James' Church for our first service since 2019—the Year 6 children led the service extremely well and the enthusiastic singing was lovely to hear.

Safeguarding/SEN/First Aiders:

Miss Strickland is our Child Protection Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Lead. Our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Hunter and Mrs Moore.

Our SENCo is Mrs Moore.

Our first aiders are:

Mr Jowett, Miss Brown, Mrs Leonard, Mrs Acey, Miss Thorneycroft, Mrs Emerson, Mrs Drury, Mrs Ketley and Mr Allen.

Do you know how to keep your child safe at home when they are using a mobile phone, tablet or similar electronic devise?

Although we teach the children on a termly basis about keeping themselves safe whilst online, we are still hearing concerning stories from some of our parents about unsuitable material or conversations their children have accessed (often quite by accident because settings on devices did not protect them). Many parents and staff are surprised and alarmed by the extent that some people will go to, to gain access to children online.

Information on how to keep your child safe online can be found on the school website.



Read Write Inc

We are delighted with how well the children have responded to the new phonics and reading programme called Read Write Inc which has been started across the school. This means that you will see some changes to the reading books that your child brings home to share with you each day. The children are now bringing home reading books that support their learning in school as well as a library book of their choice for you to read together for pleasure. Please continue to sign and return the reading records and books daily to school. All book bags and reading books need to be brought into school **every Friday** as this is the day that books will be changed. As the children are working in small groups daily for these sessions, we are already beginning to see the progress with their phonics and reading skills and we would also like to thank you for your support with the reading at home.

School Uniform

We are delighted with the appearance of all the children in school, they look extremely smart and we thank you for your support of our school uniform policy.

Please remember to ensure that your child wears plain black school shoes. Sandshoes should be worn inside school. Please write your child's name in their uniform, this prevents any upset if items are misplaced.

PE Kit

Please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit at school. This consists of a plain white T-shirt and plain red shorts. As many PE lessons this term will take place outside, children may need to wear trainers for these lessons. Please remember that our outdoor kit consists of plain black sweatshirt and plain black jogging bottoms.

If you need to order any items of school uniform, please contact the school office and they will be able to help you with this.

Outdoor Clothing

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school for playtimes and lunchtimes.



Keeping Safe on the Playground Before and After School

Adults or children riding bikes or scooters on the playground before or after school presents a health and safety risk for other children and adults. Please make sure that your child does not ride his/her bike or scooter on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day.

For health and safety reasons it is essential that no children climb on the play equipment on the playground or field before or after school.



Car Parking:

It is imperative that no parents or taxis use the school drive to turn round, drop off or to park. For the sake of the safety of all of the children please do not come onto the school site in your car to drop off or collect your children. This applies before school, at lunchtime and at the end of the day, including following after school clubs.



Important Information about Funding —Please help us to help your children:

We are trying to get additional funding into school to enable us to again begin taking the children on subsidised visits out of school to support their learning. If at any time you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:-

Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit (with an annual income of not more than £16,190 as assessed by the Inland Revenue), Guarantee element of State Pension Credit, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or an Asylum Seeker and you have not completed a form since receiving these benefits, please pop into the office and we will help you to complete a simple form that will ensure your child gets free school meals when they are in key stage 2 and helps us to get additional money into school. This is called pupil premium. Please speak to Mrs Todd our Administration Officer if you require more information.

Dogs on the school site

Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school site, even if being carried.



Jewellery

We don't consider it is necessary for your child to wear any jewellery whilst at school. However, if you feel that this is essential, please make sure that this is limited to one **small** pair of stud earrings in the lower lobe area and one watch; these must be removed for health and safety reasons when taking part in P.E. lessons.

No Smoking

Our school site is a non-smoking site and this includes not using e-cigarettes and vaping on our grounds. Please can I also ask that you do not smoke near the school entrance gates for the health and safety of the whole school community.



School Security and lunchtimes

The entrance gates to the school field remain locked throughout the day between 9:00 am and 3:10 pm. If your child goes home at lunch time please arrange to meet them at the main door into the school (school office entrance). Children should return into school via this route on their return after lunch for 1.00 pm.

Good Behaviour Policy

We are delighted with the behaviour of all of our pupils. You are very welcome to look at the good behaviour policy—or any other school policies. All policies are available from the school office. You will also find a number of school policies on our web-site.



Dates for the year, including Holidays

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some dates for your diary. There will be additional dates to follow and letters will be sent home regarding any visits or Christmas events that we are able to organise nearer the time—risk assessment and government guidance permitting.

DATE	EVENT
Friday 22nd October	3.15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
HALF TERM	
Monday 1st November	Teacher training day
Tuesday 2nd November	Children return to school
Friday 5th November	PM—M&M Theatre Productions—Performance of Sleeping Beauty
Week Beginning 8th November	Face to Face Parents' Evenings (we will confirm this after half term—Guidance permitting)
Friday 19th November	Children in Need
Friday 17th December	3:15 pm - School closes for the Christmas holidays
Tuesday 4th January	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 5th January	Children return to school
Friday 18th February	3:15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
Monday 28th February	Children return to school
Friday 8th April	3:15 pm - School closes for the Easter holiday
Monday 25th April	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 26th April	Children return to school
Monday 2nd May	School closed—Bank Holiday Monday
Friday 27th May	3:15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
Monday 6th June	Children return to school
Friday 22nd July	3:15 pm - School closes for the summer holiday