



NEWSLETTER

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ST JAMES'
CE ACADEMY

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

The children have settled very well back into their classes and should be congratulated for their continued effort, positive attitude to learning, good behaviour and attendance during another unpredictable start to the term. We are also very pleased to welcome our new nursery children to St James'.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are delighted that the children have continued to attend well at the beginning of another uncertain start to the 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. 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.

Parent Mail

We have recently gone cashless so all breakfast club, dinners, uniform and nursery fees can now be paid electronically. Thank you to the parents who have already signed up for this option. If you would like further information about how to get online to make these payments, please feel free to contact the school office.

Safeguarding/SEN/First Aiders:

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

Our SENCo is Mrs Moore.

Our first aiders are:

Mr Jowett, Miss Brown, Mrs Leonard, Miss Thorncroft, 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 device?

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 **Internet Safety** access to children online.

Information on how to keep your child safe online can be found on the school website and we will also be having a school wide Safer Internet Day on 8th February.



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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 website.



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.

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 are to 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.

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.



Congratulations!

The school community would like to send our warmest wishes and congratulations to Mrs Hunter and her family on the safe arrival of a healthy baby boy over the Christmas holiday!



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 or park on the double yellow markings outside the main entrance. This applies before school, at lunchtime and at the end of the day, including following after school clubs.

Please can we also ask that you are considerate of our local residents and ensure that you do not block access to garages when dropping off and picking up.



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.

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.

Covid-19 Update

Unfortunately, it would appear that the current Covid-19 variant and wave of infections has finally reached St. James'. We are working hard with our Trust partners to follow all guidelines to keep the school community as safe as possible and also to minimise the impact of this by continuing to follow additional hygiene measures including regular hand washing and employing additional cleaners throughout the day.

As we have recently had changing advice from the government, please see below some advice on self-isolation periods. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Day 1	Symptoms start or a positive test result.
Day 5 & Day 6	2 consecutive negative test results and do not have a high temperature—end period of self isolation after the day 6 test. Positive result—continue to self isolate until you have had 2 consecutive test results.
Day 11	If you have not had 2 consecutive negative tests but have completed 10 days isolation and do not have a high temperature—end period of self isolation.

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 etc we are able to organise nearer the time.

Tuesday 8th February	Safer Internet Day—children will participate in learning activities to ensure they stay safe online
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