

**MR M WOOLLEY
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1st September 2024

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to write my first letter as the new headteacher of St James' and I look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday.

We have been extremely busy this summer preparing for the new academic year and want to share just some of the things that have been happening over the last few weeks, as well as a few reminders.

Reception Class Refurbishment

During the last two inset days in July, staff removed absolutely everything from the classroom ready for the decorators. All the old furniture, equipment and display boards have found a new home in a skip (or two) and all the pipework has been boxed in. On Friday 30th August, all the new furniture and resources arrived. The classroom looks incredible, just like a 'show classroom'. Reception staff will be more than happy to show to around.

Sensory Room

Over the summer, my old office upstairs has been refurbished and changed into a wonderful sensory room. We have an interactive bubble wall, a LED table, an infinity mirror, a sensory board and other exciting equipment and resources. I think children will be queuing up at the door to take a peek inside!

New Intervention Room

An old stock cupboard, jam packed with old text books and resources, has been converted into a new intervention room. The walls have been painted and new boards put up ready to welcome small groups of children who will appreciate a quieter space for learning.

Entrance Refurbishment

The entrance has been totally refurbished to give it a spacious, fresh new look. Furniture has been removed, walls have been painted and new carpet laid. We are just looking for a new home for all our sports trophies (don't worry, they will be back!)

Improved Security

For extra security, we have had alarm contact sensors added to the external doors. An alarm will trigger at each door, if it has not been disarmed first by a member of staff.

Changes to Physical Education

We have managed to secure Terri (our sports coach) for an extra day of PE on a Friday. Key Stage Two (Years 3-6) will have PE every Tuesday. EYFS and Key Stage One (Nursery-Year 2) will have PE every Friday.

However, Year 6 will have an extra session on a Friday afternoon. Nursery children will have two shorter sessions - one on Tuesday and one on Friday. Children need to come to school already dressed in their PE kits.

Uniform

Our school's uniform policy remains the same and must be adhered to. Uniform comprises of: Charcoal grey trousers, skirt or pinafore (no leggings); pale blue polo shirt; dark (navy) blue sweatshirt, black shoes (not trainers). Over the summer, all the carpets have been professionally cleaned (they smell fantastic!). So please ensure your child's shoes are dirt free before they arrive at school each day (we will try our best to prevent children from walking in the mud!). Our school has never looked so clean and tidy...let's keep it this way!

Trainers may be brought into school (in a bag) for running club after school on a Monday (Key Stage Two only), football with Mr Partridge (Year 4/5 on a Wednesday and, the football team from Year 5/6 on a Thursday).

All hair accessories should be school colours, blue, white or silver and we ask that the children do not have extreme hairstyles.

PE Kits

Please ensure your child wears the correct school PE kit consisting of a plain white t-shirt (no logos or patterns) and plain navy blue/black sports shorts (not cycling shorts) and black plimsoll type pumps. Children will still need their school jumpers. During colder weather, children may wear plain navy blue/black jogging bottoms (not leggings).

Jewellery

In the interests of health and safety... chains, bracelets, rings and other jewellery should not be worn in school. Clip on ear rings should not be worn but, where a child has pierced ears, small studs may be worn as long as they can be removed by the pupil for swimming lessons. Children are not allowed to wear nail varnish or makeup.

Forest School

This half term, Year 1 will be having Forest School sessions every Monday, starting on 9th September. Our gardeners have recently been into our new Forest School area to cut back some of the brambles and make it safe, ready for us to use!

Wraparound provision

Our new wraparound provision will start this week. There are two sessions for Breakfast Club. The first session starts from **7:30am until 8:45am, costing £2.50 per session**. The second session starts from **8:15am until 8:45am** (no later than 8:30am arrival please), **costing £1 per session**. A breakfast (including: cereal, toast, bagels, drink) will be provided for all pupils.

A variety of after school clubs organised and run by our Teaching Assistants and sports coaches will be available for all pupils (Nursery-Year 6), every day from **3:30pm until 4:30pm, costing £1 per session**. Activities on offer will be age appropriate and different each day. Please note, all sports clubs and Hattersley Brass will also cost £1 per session.

Extended wraparound care is also available from **4:30pm until 6pm**. This will **cost £6 per session** (which includes the £1 after school club fee). Children will be provided with a snack on a two-week rota, including: sandwiches, wraps, toast, pasta, rice cakes. A selection of fruit and biscuits will be available every day too, with juice and water provided.

You will be required to book and pay for sessions from the Sunday before the week commences - this should now be live on the app to book on for this week's sessions. In exceptional circumstances e.g. an emergency, you will be able to make bookings, on the app, up to 7:15am for the same day. After this time, you can contact the office to add a late booking (subject to availability). Please note, if your child is booked onto a session and does not attend, charges will still be applicable. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

And finally,

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard over the summer, preparing for all the exciting changes and assisting with all the refurbishments. A great team effort!

Yours faithfully
Mr M Woolley

Headteacher