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HEADTEACHER**



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Dear parents and carers,

As we draw to a close on another successful school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share some important information for September.

It has indeed been a busy year, filled with growth and learning. We are thrilled to report that our pupils have excelled across the board. The Reception class has made remarkable strides, achieving our best results in three years, with 57.89% attaining a Good Level of Development. Notably, 100% of the children met the expected attainment in Physical Development, Understanding of the World, and Expressive Arts and Design. The improvement in mathematics is particularly commendable, with 89.5% of pupils reaching the expected standard, alongside impressive advancements in Literacy and Communication.

In Year 1, we celebrated our best-ever results for the Phonic Screening Check, with an astonishing 81.5% pass rate. This achievement exceeds the Local Authority's figure of 75.1%.

Our Year 6 pupils also performed exceptionally well in their SATs this year. For Mathematics, 68.18% achieving the expected standard. 27.27% of pupils achieved Greater Depth - an incredible result. In Reading, 72.7% met expectations (exceeding the target set for us), and amazingly in Grammar, 81.8% achieved the expected mark (above the national figure).

Congratulations and thank you to all our children and staff for all your hard work this year. We also appreciate your encouragement at home in supporting your children's learning.

Not only have we celebrated tremendous academic success, I am also delighted by all our accomplishments this year, including most recently our wonderful Key Stage Two production of *The Wizard of Oz*. I cannot express enough how proud I am of all our talented pupils. Their hard work and dedication were truly evident in both their singing and acting performances. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who attended the performance. Your support means the world to our children.

Healthy Eating

As we look towards the new school year, I would like to remind everyone to promote healthy eating habits. Pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 already enjoy free fruit in the mornings and this will continue. Pupils in Early Years will get an additional healthy snack in the afternoon (school will provide this).

From September, we kindly ask that Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) bring in a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or some breadsticks/crackers. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 can also bring a healthy snack for their afternoon playtime.

Also, we are discouraging birthday sweets. If you would like to bring in a treat for your child's class, please send in an alternative to sweets. A class book to be enjoyed by all the children, would be very much appreciated.

School Dinners

As of September, we will be welcoming a new catering company, Mellors, to provide lunch for our pupils. This change comes as Tameside Council has ended their contract with Robertsons.

We are excited about this new partnership with Mellors, who are committed to enhancing our catering experience. They have plans to invest in our lunch offerings, including the introduction of a new salad bar, ensuring that our children have a variety of healthy options to choose from.

Please note that there will be a small increase in the price of a school dinner. **From September, the cost will be £3.10 per day, which totals £15.50 for the week** (this is in line with the usual annual increase). We believe that this investment in quality catering will be beneficial for our children, promoting healthy eating habits.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this transition. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the new catering arrangements, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Uniform

I would like to take a moment to reiterate our uniform policy, which will remain unchanged for September, but with a strong emphasis on adherence to these guidelines. Our uniform consists of the following items:

- Charcoal grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Dark blue sweatshirt
- Black shoes (ankle boots are acceptable in winter)

We kindly request that all hair accessories be in school colours—blue, white, or silver—and that children avoid extreme hairstyles for the sake of uniformity and school ethos. Uniforms featuring the school logo are available to order online from school trends. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StJamesCatholicPrimarySchoolSK143DQ>

However, plain alternatives are equally acceptable and these can be purchased from other uniform shops or supermarkets.

In addition, please ensure your child has the following items for their PE kit:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Dark blue shorts (dark blue joggers are acceptable during the winter but no leggings)
- PE plimsoll pumps or trainers
- School jumpers can be worn too, no hoodies allowed

If children have an after-school sports club, they will need to wear the correct PE kit for that day. Alternative sports kit will not be allowed.

For the health and safety of all our pupils, please remember that chains, bracelets, rings, and other jewellery should not be worn to school. Clip-on earrings are also not permitted, though small studs may be worn if your child is able to remove them for swimming lessons. Nail varnish and make-up are not allowed.

Thank you for your continuous support and for ensuring that our students present themselves as ambassadors of our school. If you have any queries regarding the uniform policy or the ordering process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year. Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another fantastic year ahead!

Yours Faithfully,

Mr M Woolley
Headteacher