

# St James' Catholic Primary

## "Great News"

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

It has been a busy first few weeks here at St James. The children are now settled into their new classes and their new routines. Thank you to all those parents who attended our welcome meetings. It is great to have your support, as we work together to provide our children with the very best education.

### UNIFORM

We continue to be impressed with how smart our children are looking and it is great to see the correct PE kit being worn by all children too. Please make sure you all clothes are clearly labelled with your child's name. We have lots of lost property with no names in.

### PARISH NEWS

This morning, Father Philip celebrated his final Mass with us today. He is sadly leaving the Parish of St James the Great and moving onto pastures new. He will be taking up the new position as parish priest at St Peter's Hazel Grove. Thank you to all those who donated money towards Father Philip's collection.

His temporary replacement at St James will be Father Owen Gallagher who is on a sabbatical for six months, before returning to his parish in Wythenshawe. Some of our older readers may remember Owen Gallagher as a former teacher at All Saints. It is then expected that Father Paul Shaw, who will replace Father Philip as the parish priest of St Peter's and St Raphael's, will then also take on St James' some time next year. I will arrange dates for class Masses when I meet with Father Owen.

### EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

A new incentive for encouraging excellent attendance is our golden ticket award for the class who achieve the best attendance figure. This will be announced each week at our Community Assembly. Year 1 were our first champions and they got to choose a whole class award - a Just Dance Party! Last week, Year 3 were our winners and their prize was extra Golden Time. This week, Year 5 came out on top and won a movie afternoon!

All children with 96% or above attendance at the end of the Autumn Term will receive a certificate and will be entered into a prize draw. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize worth £100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (worth £30) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (worth £20). Previous prizes have included gift vouchers for Go Ape, Play Factore, Active Tameside, Hollywood Bowl and Cineworld.

As you are aware, as a school we are no longer able to authorise holidays in term time. Our school attendance target is 96%. Time away from school has a negative impact on pupils' progress and attainment. Please try to make appointments outside of the school day. If you would like some support or guidance with attendance matters, please do contact us in school.

### NSPCC WORKSHOPS

Last week, we had two visitors from the NSPCC who delivered some really engaging workshops around keeping safe. The theme for their latest programme is Speak Out. Stay Safe. Our children are now more aware of who they can speak to if they are sad or have been hurt.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to those parents who attended our coffee morning on Wednesday, supported this great charity through JustGiving, or by buying cakes at the end of the school day. Thanks also to all those parents and staff who donated cakes. The event raised an amazing £228 for Macmillan. Well done! Mrs Duggan correctly guessed the position of the coffee bean and won the £20 prize.

### EARLY EXCELLENCE

As a school we are delighted to be recognised by Early Excellence as a Host School for 2025/26, to host events and share good practice in our area. Early Excellence are a highly regarded organisation that promote inspirational learning, offering School Improvement & Bespoke Consultancy as well as educational resource solutions focused on early primary EYFS & KS1.



### SCHOOL DINNERS

We have been delighted with the quality of the food and service provided by our new catering contractor - Mellors. Our new salad bar which includes delicious pasta dishes and coleslaw, as well as our freshly baked bread are proving very popular with the children. Yesterday, we had a special theme day called 'McMellors', which was our take on McDonalds. One child described it as the best day ever! More theme days are already being planned. If you would like your child to go on school dinners, please inform Mrs Boyce in the office (ideally with 1 weeks' notice).

**THURSDAY is Community Assembly.** All are welcome to attend in the School Hall at 9am. We celebrate all the good work that has gone on during the week.

### PE KIT

PE is on a Tuesday for Nursery, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5.

PE is on a Friday for Nursery (they have two shorter sessions), Reception, Year 2, Year 4 (an extra session this term) and Year 6.

On PE day children come to school in their PE Kits. Please can you ensure that it is our school kit of plain white t-shirt and plain dark blue or black shorts/jogging bottoms, along with their school jumper. On days when children have after school sports, they must wear their PE kit too.

### FOREST SCHOOL

This half term it is Year 1's turn for Forest School on a Thursday. Children need to arrive at school already dressed in their forest school clothes and bring their wellies or outdoor footwear with them in a bag. Nursery have Forest School all year round (weather permitting) every Wednesday.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club is available every morning in the School Hall (using the side door). This needs to be booked in advance using the app. There are two sessions to book onto. The first session from

7:30am until 8:45am costing £2.50 per child. The second session begins at 8:15am and costs £1. Children must arrive no later than 8.30am.

### AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

We continue to have excellent attendance at our after- school clubs. Children are really enjoying playing with their friends, learning new skills and making crafts to take home. All children from Nursery - Year 6 can attend our after-school clubs. We have at least four after school activities each day and usually a least of choice of two clubs for each age group. These sessions need to be booked in advance, at least the day before, using the app. All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. **Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment.**

After School Club Activities Autumn Term 1 (Sept-Oct 2025)

MONDAY	Activity 1 Infants Stay and Play	Activity 2 Year 3/4 Games	Activity 3 Juniors Running	Activity 4 Year 5/6 Crafts, Crochet & Knitting
TUESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Motor Fun	Activity 2 Year 2/3 Cheerleading	Activity 3 Juniors Sports	Activity 4 Juniors Chat n Chill
WEDNESDAY	Activity 1 Nursery, Rec, Year 1 Science	Activity 2 Year 2/3/4 Football	Activity 3 Year 5/6 Photography	Activity 4 Infants/Juniors Computers
THURSDAY	Activity 1 Infants Den Building	Activity 2 Year 3/4 Lego & Construction	Activity 3 Year 5/6 Football (Team only)	Activity 4 Juniors Computers or Brass
FRIDAY	Activity 1 Infants PE/Games	Activity 2 Year 3/4 Science	Activity 3 Year 5/6 STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	Activity 4 Year 2/Juniors Computers

### WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, fruit and salad.

### TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

### NEW PARENTS

There are many different ways in which we communicate information at St James'. Our **website** is [www.st-james-hyde.tameside.sch.uk](http://www.st-james-hyde.tameside.sch.uk) Class teachers have been recently updating their class pages on the website. We also have a parent **texting** service so please ensure that we always have your most recent mobile phone number. You can also talk to us on the gate or nip into the office with a message! Our **Facebook** page is Friends of St James Hattersley, please request to join, you will be asked questions about your relationship to children in school so we can check who is joining.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 8th October	Individual Photographs
Thursday 23rd October	Last day of term
Friday 24th October	Staff INSET Day
Monday 3rd November	School Re-opens
Monday 10th November	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Day)
Wednesday 12th November	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 14th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 18th November	Parents Evening 2:30pm - 6pm
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 4th December	KS2 Snow White Pantomime at Hyde Festival Theatre at 7:30pm.
Friday 5th December	Choir Sing at Tesco from 1pm
Wednesday 10th December	Early Years Christmas Crafts 9am
Wednesday 10th December	KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Nativity 2:30pm
Thursday 11th December	Hattersley Brass perform at Tesco after school.
Thursday 11th December	Early Years and KS1 Christmas Party
Thursday 11th December	KS1 Nativity 6pm
Friday 12th December	KS2 Carol/Brass Concert in Church at 2:45pm.
Wednesday 17th December	Early Years Nativity 10:45am
Thursday 18th December	KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term