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23rd July 2026

End of Year Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to a close on another successful school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share some important information for September. It has certainly been a busy year, filled with growth and learning. We are delighted to report that our pupils have excelled across all key stages. Congratulations and thank you to all our children and staff for their hard work throughout the year. We also greatly appreciate the support and encouragement you provide at home to help your children succeed.

Not only have we celebrated tremendous academic success, but I am also delighted by the many achievements of our school community this year, including this week our wonderful Key Stage 2 production of *Aladdin*. I cannot express 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 everyone who attended. Your support means a great deal to our children.

We also enjoyed a lovely Year 6 Leavers' Assembly this morning. Well done, Year 6. You were amazing! You have been a fantastic class and will be greatly missed by the entire school community. We wish you every success in the future.

Staffing Updates

I would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to two members of staff who are sadly leaving us. Firstly, Mrs Townsend, whose fixed-term contract has come to an end. Unfortunately, we have not been able to extend her contract any further. Mrs Townsend has been a real asset to our school, teaching children across EYFS and Key Stage 1, and has made a valued contribution to the life of St James'. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

We also say goodbye to Miss Jowitt, who, after 12 years at St James', will be taking early retirement. During her time with us, Miss Jowitt has taught classes across the school and has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to our pupils and school community. We are extremely grateful for her many years of hard work and loyal service and wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

We have now finalised our plans for September. Thank you for your patience while these decisions were being made. We appreciate that this information has taken longer than usual to share, but it was important that we carefully considered all options to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Nursery: Mrs Kinder, Miss Bostock and Mrs Leung

Reception: Mrs Dobie, Mrs Lodhi

Year 1: Miss Bostock, Miss Fawcett, Mrs Childs

Year 2: Miss Eccles, Miss Walker

Year 3: Mrs Field, Miss Chapman (Thursdays), Mrs Snarr, Mrs Seton-Jones

Year 4: Miss Birtles, Miss Chapman (Fridays), Mrs Collins

Year 5: Mrs Slawson, Mrs Collins

Year 6: Miss Hallows, Mr Woolley (Fridays), Mrs Clark

Due to an increase in pupil numbers and bigger class sizes, we have made the decision that the Year 6 Class, from September, will be based in The Ark. This will be a great space for them, where they will feel more 'grown up' and independent. Over the summer, we will be giving The Ark a mini-makeover to make it more comfortable for our Year 6 children.

Attendance

As you know, we have placed a strong focus on improving whole-school attendance this year. We have finished the year with an attendance figure of **94.8%**, which is in line with, and possibly slightly above, the national average. This represents a significant improvement on previous years, but we can achieve even higher next year with your support. Excellent attendance really does make a difference to pupils' progress and attainment. However, it is important that we get off to a strong start in September, as attendance during this month is often affected by term-time holidays. Those first few weeks are vital in helping children settle into their new classes and routines. Children with 100% attendance in the month of September will be entered into a special prize draw.

Healthy Snacks

As we look ahead to the new school year, I would like to remind everyone about the importance of healthy eating habits.

- Pupils in **Early Years** and **Key Stage 1** will continue to receive free fruit each morning.
- Pupils in **Early Years** will also receive an additional healthy afternoon snack provided by the school.
- Pupils in **Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)** may bring a healthy snack such as fruit, breadsticks or crackers.
- Pupils in **Years 1 and 2** may also bring a healthy snack for afternoon playtime.

We are also discouraging the distribution of birthday sweets in school. If you would like to bring in a treat for your child's class, we would welcome alternatives. A class book that can be enjoyed by all the children would be particularly appreciated.

Breakfast Club

From September, **Breakfast Club will be free for all pupils between 8:15am and 8:45am.**
For families requiring the earlier session from **7:30am to 8:15am**, the cost will be **£1.50 per day**.

School Dinners

School dinners will remain at **£3.10 per day**, which totals **£15.50 per week**. Children in Reception – Year 2 will receive universal free school meals.

After-School Clubs and Wraparound Care

- **After-school clubs (3:30pm to 4:30pm):** £1.50 per day
- **Wraparound care (4:30pm to 6:00pm):** £5.00 per day, including a snack and drink

We will send an app link with the new clubs and will also be available from the school website, when we return in September.

Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform policy, which will remain unchanged for September. However, we will be placing a stronger emphasis on adhering to these guidelines, particularly as we have been more relaxed with our policy during the final weeks of term.

School Uniform

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

We kindly request that all hair accessories are in school colours: **blue, white or silver**. Children should also avoid extreme hairstyles, helping us to maintain consistency and uphold the school's ethos.

Uniform featuring the school logo can be ordered online from School Trends using the link below:

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

Plain alternatives are equally acceptable and can be purchased from other uniform suppliers or supermarkets.

PE Kit

Please ensure your child has the following PE kit:

- **Plain white T-shirt (no logos)**
- **Dark blue or black shorts (no tight-fitting cycling shorts)**
- **Dark blue or black joggers during winter (leggings are not permitted)**
- **PE plimsolls or trainers**
- **School jumper if required (hoodies are not permitted)**

If children attend an after-school sports club, they must wear the correct PE kit. Alternative sportswear will not be permitted.

We are asking Reception parents to provide:

- A pair of wellington boots
- Indoor black plimsoll pumps

These should be kept in a drawstring bag on your child's peg.

Jewellery and Appearance

For the health and safety of all pupils:

- Chains, bracelets, rings and other jewellery should not be worn to school.
- Clip-on earrings are not permitted.
- Small stud earrings may be worn if your child can remove them independently for swimming lessons (Year 5 only).
- Nail varnish and make-up are not allowed.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping our pupils present themselves as proud ambassadors of our school. If you have any questions regarding the uniform policy or ordering process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Finally,

I would like to thank you for your support throughout the year. I wish you all a happy, restful and safe summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another fantastic year ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Woolley
Headteacher