MR M WOOLLEY
HEADTEACHER

TEL: 0161 368 3455

admin@st-james-hyde.tameside.sch.uk

CHERITON CLOSE
HATTERSLEY
HYDE
CHESHIRE
SK14 3DQ

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and that the children are feeling excited and ready for the year ahead. It has been fantastic to welcome everyone back to school and to see the children returning with such enthusiasm, positivity and pride. We especially welcome all our new children in Nursery and Reception.

Before the summer holiday we said goodbye to another successful academic year, and over the break our staff have worked incredibly hard to prepare the school for the children's return. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of staff for their dedication and commitment.

We have also made several improvements to our school environment during the summer. New LED lighting has been installed throughout classrooms and corridors, helping to create brighter and more energy-efficient learning spaces. Our Year 6 pupils have now moved into the Ark building, which looks fantastic and provides an excellent environment for learning and preparing for secondary school.

Welcoming Our New Staff
We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our school this year. **Miss Eccles** joins us as our new **Year 2 Teacher**. We are pleased to have Rebecca on our teaching team and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our pupils' learning and development. We also welcome **Mrs Parry**, who joins us as our **Admin Data Officer**. Louise will support the smooth running of the school through her work managing pupil data and administrative systems. Please join us in giving Miss Eccles and Mrs Parry a warm welcome to our school community.

Nut-Free School
To help keep all children safe, our school is now a **nut-free zone**. We ask that no foods containing nuts are brought into school, either as snacks or in packed lunches. This will help reduce the risk to pupils with severe allergies. Please also note that **Wotsits (cheesy puffs) and Custard Cream biscuits are not permitted** as snacks or in packed lunches.

To support this change, all staff have received training in allergy awareness, anaphylaxis management and the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens). Thank you for your support in helping us provide a safe environment for every child.

Uniform
It was wonderful to see the children arrive looking so smart and wearing their school uniform with pride. High standards of presentation help to create a positive learning environment and encourage a strong sense of belonging within our school community. We ask for your continued support in maintaining these standards throughout the year. On PE days, children should wear:

- A plain white T-shirt
- Dark blue or black shorts
- Dark blue or black joggers during colder weather
- Plimsolls or trainers
- A school jumper if required

Please note that leggings, cycling shorts and hoodies are not permitted. Children attending after-school sports clubs should wear the correct PE kit on the relevant day. Alternative sportswear will not be allowed. For health and safety reasons, children should not wear chains, bracelets, rings or other jewellery to school. Small stud earrings may be worn, provided children can remove them independently for swimming lessons where necessary. Clip-on earrings are not permitted. Nail varnish and make-up should not be worn in school.

PE lessons are on **Tuesdays** for the following classes: **Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6.**
PE lesson are on **Fridays** for the following classes: **Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.**

Forest School
This term **Year 1** and **Year 4** have Forest School on a **Tuesday**. **Year 2** have Forest School on a **Wednesday**. Children need to come to school already dressed in their Forest School clothes (those clothes you don't mind getting dirty). They will also need a waterproof jacket and wellies or other suitable footwear that you don't mind getting muddy. Please can Year 2 and Year 4 parents collect their child from the outdoor classroom (at the far end of the playground) at 3:30pm on their Forest School days. Year 1 and Year 4 pupils will also have PE on a Tuesday, so it might be best for them to wear their PE jogging bottoms for Forest School too and have their white PE t-shirt underneath their other Forest School clothes.

Healthy Eating
Thank you for your continued support in encouraging healthy eating habits. It is fantastic to see so many children choosing healthy snacks and developing positive attitudes towards nutrition and wellbeing. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will continue to receive free fruit each morning. Early Years pupils will also receive a healthy snack during the afternoon, provided by the school. For children in Key Stage 2, we encourage healthy snacks such as: Fresh fruit, breadsticks, crackers, similar nutritious options.
Children in Years 1 and 2 may also bring a healthy snack for afternoon break.

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, we are also continuing to discourage the tradition of bringing sweets into school for birthdays. If you would like to mark your child's birthday with the class, we would warmly welcome the donation of a book for the classroom library instead. Many families choose to write a short message inside the cover, creating a lasting memory for their child and a resource that can be enjoyed by many pupils for years to come.

Attendance Matters
Good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring children achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, and regular attendance helps children build confidence, maintain friendships and develop positive learning habits.
Our aim this year is for every child to achieve attendance of at least **96%**. While we understand that children will occasionally be absent due to genuine illness, we ask families to avoid taking holidays during term time and, where possible, arrange routine appointments outside school hours.

Missing even a small amount of school can have a significant impact on children's learning. Pupils who attend regularly are more likely to make strong academic progress, feel connected to school life and develop the confidence needed to thrive both socially and academically. Thank you for helping us ensure every child is in school, on time, and ready to learn each day.

Welcome Meetings
We warmly invite all parents and carers to attend our class welcome meetings over the coming weeks.
These meetings provide an opportunity to:

- Meet your child's teacher
- Visit the classroom
- Learn about class routines and expectations
- Find out how you can support your child's learning at home

All meetings will begin at **3:30pm** and will last approximately **15 minutes**. If your child does not attend an after-school club on the day of the meeting, we will be happy to supervise them while you attend.

Year 1: Thursday 17th September
Year 2: Thursday 10th September
Year 3: Tuesday 15th September
Year 4: Wednesday 9th September
Year 5: Tuesday 8th September
Year 6: Wednesday 16th September

Nursery and Reception parents have already had their transition meetings before the summer break, but if you would like further information about your child's class or their learning, please contact with the class teacher.

Working Together
At St James', we believe that children achieve their very best when school and home work together. Whether it is supporting reading at home, maintaining high standards of uniform, encouraging positive behaviour or ensuring excellent attendance, your support makes a tremendous difference.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to ensure every child is happy, safe and successful. Together, we can make this an exciting, rewarding and memorable year for all our pupils.

Thank you for your continued support. I am excited about the year ahead and all the opportunities it will bring for our children.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Woolley
Headteacher