

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it has been 5 weeks already. The time has flown. We have had a busy but settled start to the year. I am delighted to have been appointed as the Headteacher of St John and St James and am overwhelmed by the encouragement, support and kind words from so many children, parents and colleagues. I am passionate about leading the school effectively through the next stage in our journey, with the support of you all.

We have seen a few other changes this year. We were sad to say goodbye to Miss Farquharson, Miss Ramsay, Miss Trapanese and Miss White last term, who have all moved on to pastures new. We wish them the very best of luck on their continued journey.

This year, Miss Persaud has joined us in Year 1, St Andrews Class. Miss Chowdhury is the new year 2, St Francis teacher, supported by Miss Simpson. Miss Jaiyesimi has joined us in Year 3 in St James Class. Mr Hannam is our new year 4 teacher, supported by Mrs Williams, in St Winifred Class and Mr Lowson is working alongside Miss Griffin in St Teresa Class, in Year 5. Miss Ibrahim has also joined the support team, working across years 3 and 5. We are all very pleased to welcome our new colleagues.

We are all excited by the arrival of Mrs Bennett's new baby boy, who arrived just today and Miss Hunt will be leaving us to have her second baby next month; our St John and St James' family is growing!

The staff and I have been very busy making sure we are putting robust systems and schemes in place to ensure that our curriculum is meeting the needs of all children. It is specifically designed to enrich and engage all learners in our school. Information about the curriculum will be on our website soon but, in the meantime you can see choice based homework links in each class page and links to learning sites the school has purchased on our children's learning page.

Thank you to all of you that came to meet your child's class teacher at our Parent Cafes, they were very well attended. It is important that you know where your child is in their learning and how they need to improve and so appointments for Parent Consultations will be coming out this week for the 7th and 10th October 2019.

This term we are trialling a new electronic booking system for Parent Consultations. The link to your booking page is on the school website on the Parent Information page. Please support us if you can as it reduces paper waste and reduces teacher workload. The booking system can also be viewed on all smart phones. If you would like help with this, please ask at the school office.

During the Parent Consultation evenings we will have parent questionnaires available for you to complete and share your views. This is an important way for us to gather suggestions and ideas of how we can continue to grow and improve as a school so please take this opportunity to share

your views with us. It is important that you have a voice, as a parent, in your child's school and their learning.

We are on a journey that will make us stronger. However, we also need your support.

Friends of St John and St James

The Friends of St John and St James are a group of parents who help in fundraising and coordinate most events of the school, initiated by parents themselves. With falling budgets in schools, the need for fund raising to purchase resources to enhance learning and provide enrichment experiences for our students is crucial. The team met on 23rd September to start planning but all parents and carers are welcome to join any future meetings, even if you are only able to commit for one or two events over the year. These are included in the calendar of events at the end of this letter.



Governors Fund

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our Governors Fund. The Governors fund is £13 per term or £39 for the academic year, for each child. This has been added to your Parentpay account. The fund supports the school in paying for developments and repairs to the school building. As a Church of England school, we do not benefit from building repairs from the Local Authority so this fund is essential to ensure the continued maintenance of the school building and grounds. If you have paid already we would like to thank you but if not can we urge you to make payment as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty with making the payment, please speak to the office staff, in complete confidence.

Uniform

Thank you to all of you that send your children into school every day in full school uniform. They all look very smart.

I need to remind you all that plain black leather shoes or trainers are acceptable. Coloured trims, logos or shoelaces are not part of the school uniform. We have high expectations of everything we do and that includes our uniform. PE kit is also an essential part of school uniform and should be in school to enable children to access planned Physical Education lessons and clubs. Please ensure that all items are labelled.

Your child could miss out on representing the school if they are not in full school uniform.

Attendance

We have a target of 96% every year. This is the same target that every school is given across the country. We have not been able to meet it yet but this year we are really aspiring to get there. We ask you to ensure that your children are in school every day and you do not take them out of school for holidays and occasional days off.

The Local Authority Education Welfare Officer is working closely with us with to ensure we are doing all that we can to reduce the number of children off school and meet the target.

Lates

Unfortunately, too many children are late into school every day. They miss one of the most important lessons of the day. If your child is not in before a certain time they could miss one session's mark. This will count as being absent for half a day. Please work with us to prevent gaps in your children's learning by being at school on time!



Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we do have a code of conduct for parents, carers and visitors at school. This is available on our school website, it is extremely rare but we do occasionally have to refer to it. Whilst we know from time to time you may get frustrated and anxious over issues with your children but please come and talk to us. A member of the Senior Leadership team will always be available to you, should the class teacher not be able to deal with your concern satisfactorily.

The Governors and myself will not and cannot tolerate any type of aggressive or abusive behaviour on the school site. We are a primary school and we cannot have young children witnessing this behaviour from adults or young people.

If any of you are unhappy or have an issue with a pupil or another parent please, please let the school deal with it and work with you to resolve any issues.



Our Harvest Festival collection this year will go to North Enfield Food Bank, which supports our local community and some of our own families in times of need. Generous donations of long life food items will be gratefully received and passed on to a very worthy cause. Our assemblies will be held on 10th and 11th October so please send your donations from Monday 30th September.

Read Write Inc

At St John and St James we aim for all our children to become fluent, confident readers who are passionate about reading. Children who read regularly or are read to regularly have the opportunity to open the doors to so many different worlds. More importantly, reading will give your child the tools to become independent life-long learners.

This year the school has invested in a new phonics programme called Read Write Inc for Reception and Key Stage 1. This programme is widely recognised as being very successful in supporting children in learning to read and already we are beginning to see the positive effects on our children.

What is RWI?

Read Write Inc. (RWI) is a phonics complete literacy programme, which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7.

Ruth Miskin developed RWI and more information about the programme can be found by following the link below. We will also be holding parent workshops in the future to support you. Please check the website for upcoming dates.

[Click here to view the RWI Information for Parents](https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/)<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

Maths No Problem

I'm sure many of you would have heard about the Singapore approach to Maths, in the news, in recent years. The effectiveness of this approach is demonstrated by Singapore's position at the top of the international benchmarking studies and explains why their programme is now used in over 40 countries including the United Kingdom and the United States. We have been inspired by the results and have introduced the programme as our main approach to teaching Maths at St John and St James. It supports children in developing a greater conceptual understanding of number and calculation. They will learn to visualise and generalise more readily due to a more in-depth understanding.

What is so great about Singapore Maths?

Problem solving is at the heart of mathematics. The focus is not on rote procedures, rote memorisation or tedious calculations but on relational understanding. Pupils are encouraged to solve problems working with their core competencies, such as visualisation, generalisation and decision making. In summary:

Singapore are consistently at the top of the international benchmarking studies for maths teaching.

It is a highly effective approach to teaching maths based on research and evidence.

It builds students' mathematical fluency without the need for rote learning.

It introduces new concepts using Bruner's Concrete Pictorial Abstract (CPA) approach.

Pupils learn to think mathematically as opposed to reciting formulas they don't understand.

Teaches mental strategies to solve problems such as drawing a bar model.

This term we are lucky enough to have maths specialist, Mr Isaac Anoom - also known as 'Mr Numbervator' - who has been teaching maths to our children in Year 5 and 6. All activities are related to the real world, in a fun engaging way. He also presents a maths assembly every

Monday, based on times-tables and then leads a series of lessons throughout the day, including a 'maths breakfast club' for our greater depth mathematicians.

Keeping Safe

The seasons are changing and it will soon be much darker after school. This can lead to greater risks to our children due to the reduced visibility.

If your child is walking to school on their own, please ensure that they have some reflector strips on their bag and coat so they are easy to see. For those of you who drive near the school it is important to think carefully about where you are parking and to be vigilant of children who might be walking between cars to cross the road.

For the older children who are walking home alone, we ask that they are collected if they are staying for clubs, as it can be very scary walking home alone in the dark and they are extremely vulnerable. Please speak to the school office or class teacher if this would be a problem.

As well as getting darker it is also getting colder. Please ensure that children are coming to school with a coat on each day. We like to get children outside learning as much as possible so it is important they have a coat, especially as we will still go out in the rain if it is light.

Thank you for your Support

Upcoming Events

Date	Events Autumn 1	Year groups
3rd October	Kingswood Residential Parent Meeting	Year 5
7 th and 10 th October	Parent Consultation Evenings	Years 1 - 6
8 th October	Full Governing Body Meeting	N/A
10 th October	Key Stage 2 – Harvest Festival	Year 3-6
11 th October	Key Stage 1 – Harvest Festival	Rec – Y2
21 st – 25 th October	Half Term Break	Whole School
Date	Events Autumn 2	Year groups
29 th October	Friends of St John and James Meeting 3.45	All Welcome
1 st November	Year 7 Tea Party	2018-19 Y6
12 th November	Full Governing Body Meeting	N/A
13 th November	Maths Masterclass	Year 6
15 th November	School Sleepover	Year 3 - 6
25 th November	Friends of St John and James Meeting 3.45	All Welcome

WB 25th November	Bikeability	Year 5 & 6
26th November	Nasal Flu Immunisations	Whole School
10th December	KS1 Parents Concert 2.30	Year 1 & 2
12th December	KS2 Parents Concert 2.30	Years 3 - 5
13th December	Christmas Cracker Fete 2.30	Whole School
16th December	KS1/EYFS Christingle Service EYFS Concert to Parents	EYFS/Y1&2
17th December	Christmas Dinner	Whole School
17th December	KS1 Christmas Disco 4.30 KS2 Christmas Disco 6.00	Year 1 & 6
18th December	Millfield Theatre Trip	Whole School
19th December	Christmas Eucharist KS2	Year 3 - 6
19th December	Last Day of Autumn Term – Finish at 2pm	Whole school