

# St James' CE Aided Infant School News



21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

## A message from the Head of School

Hello. Firstly, I need to say a huge thank you to all of you for making me feel so welcome. I am still getting to know everyone's names but all the smiling faces have meant that this already feels like home. I am very privileged to working in such excellent schools and am very much looking forward to the coming year, although, like a lot of the pupils I am having to quickly adapt to new surroundings. Before coming to St James', I worked at Pembury Primary School as Deputy Head (with the occasional stint as Acting Head). I had been at Pembury for seventeen years so it is great to have a new challenge. Having worked in collaboration with a lot of the schools in Tunbridge Wells, I was very excited to hear about the prospect of working with St James' Infant and Junior Schools. As a parent myself (I have three children aged 9, 12 and 15) I know how important it is to know that your child is cared for while they are at school – the nurturing ethos here is apparent in all elements of the school day and I will strive to ensure that this is maintained. Please do say hello when you see me next – if you have any concerns or questions about my role or the school please get in touch. I may not have all the answers yet but I will endeavour to find out for you.

The new Year 3 pupils have settled well into the Junior Schools and are having fun finding out about the world with the rest of the juniors. There was a lot of toast floating on bubbling tomato soup – ask you children! By the time you read this letter, all of the Early Years children will have had their first school dinner in preparation for being full-time next week. We are very impressed with how well they have adapted to school life – thank you to you for preparing them so well.

This term, we are very excited to see the start of Forest School sessions in the Junior School. The children who have had this experience this week have revelled in the beautiful environment we have here. The Infant sessions have also started in earnest. The autumn is a lovely time for exploring in the woods, especially with all the sycamore seeds, conkers and acorns we have on our grounds. You might want to check your child's pockets before you fill your washing machine with seeds!

'Meet the Teacher' sessions have begun this week for the Juniors and Early Years. This is a chance to find out a bit more about the learning and routines of your child's class. Whatever year group you are in, if you have any worries or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If this has not resolved the issue, or if you still have worries, you can speak to Sarah Greenfield if your child is in Reception or Christina Dennett if your child is in Years 1 or 2. Penny Wardell remains our Special Educational Needs Coordinator and will be happy to discuss any worries you may have.

### Other Information

#### New Entrants

Early Years children will be full-time next week. Please drop off your child at 8:50am and ensure there is someone to collect them at 3:10pm. Please wait at the bottom of the steps not on them. It is important that

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your child's teacher knows who is picking them up in the afternoon, please let them know if arrangements change. We are sure they will have a fabulous week and should be suitably worn out by Friday.

## Extra funding for school

There are several groups of children that bring extra funding into the school which is used to support such children and provide resources for school. One of these groups is English as an Additional Language. Contrary to popular belief, this does not just mean children who speak another language. If your child is exposed to a language other than English at home, even if they cannot speak it, they may qualify for this group. Please let us know if your child speaks or has access to a language other than English.

We can also receive a grant if your child is eligible for free school meals (usually if you are in receipt of a benefit, such as Child Tax Credit or Job Seekers' Allowance). Please do speak with one of us, in confidence, if you think this may apply.

## Belongings

Please ensure all uniform and belongings are clearly named. Children are allowed to wear summer uniform until October half term. The uniform requirements are on the school website. Please see Mrs Pierce if you would like to purchase any uniform. We already have some lost property gathering – it is much easier to return if it is named!

## Car Park

Please note that the school gates are closed between 8.35 and 9.05 and then again between 2.50 and 3.35. Parking on site is reserved for staff and visitors. Please do not use the car park to drop off or collect your child. Children should be with an adult at all times when walking through the car park. Bikes and scooters can be parked in the bike stop on the Infant pathway – please do not allow your child to ride them on the school site.

## Voluntary Fund

The school has a voluntary fund which is used to pay for activities for the children such as theatre group visits, curriculum enhancements and 'extras' for the children. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £15 a year or £5 a term per child to enable us to continue providing these exciting opportunities for the children. Please make cheques payable to St James' Infant School and send in to your child's class in a named envelope.

## Diary Dates

### September

- 10<sup>th</sup> - YR start Part Time  
Tea and Coffee for New Entrant parents (9.00 in Hall, 12.30 in Library)
- 18<sup>th</sup> - YR Meet the Teacher (11.30 & 3.00)
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Maple Class Taster lunch
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Cherry Class Taster lunch
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Oak Class Taster lunch
- 24<sup>th</sup> - YR full time

### October

- 8<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival in church (children only)
- 19<sup>th</sup> - End of Term

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29<sup>th</sup> - INSET DAY

30<sup>th</sup> - Children back to school

## November

14<sup>th</sup> - Consultation Evening

15<sup>th</sup> - Consultation Evening

16<sup>th</sup> - Superhero Training Day

29<sup>th</sup> - RE Day

## December

11<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal (Pre-School children welcome)

12<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am Christmas Performance (Creche available)

13<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am & 1.45pm Christmas Performance (Creche available)

14<sup>th</sup> - Flu Immunisations

17<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Christmas Church Service

19<sup>th</sup> - End of Term

## January

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> INSET DAYS