



# NEWSLETTER

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## Welcome Back and Thank you

It has been a very different start to the school year and I want to begin by thanking all of you for your support and understanding of the new systems and expectations that we have in place at St James. We are delighted that the children have settled very well into their new classes and they should be congratulated for their effort, attitude and attendance during the first three weeks back at school. We are very pleased to welcome our new children to St James' - those that are starting their full time education in our reception class and the children new to our nursery class.

### Inside this issue:

Welcome Back	1
Child Protection/First Aid	1
Attendance & Punctuality	1
Online Safety	1
Good Behaviour Policy	1
Marvellous Me	1
Visits out of school	2
Jewellery	2
School Uniform & P E Kit	2
Car Parking	2
Music Provision	2
School Security and Lunchtimes	2
Free School Meals	2
Keeping Safe on the Playground	2
Flu Vaccination	2
Dogs on the School Site	2
Birthday Celebrations	2
Outdoor Clothing	2
Dates for Diary	3
Staffing update	3
Medicines In School	3
Wearing Face Masks	3

### Child Protection Co-ordinator/ Emotional Wellbeing Worker and First Aiders:

Miss Strickland is our Child Protection Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Lead. Our Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Dobson.

Our Emotional Wellbeing Worker is Mrs Drury.

Our first aiders are:

Mr Jowett, Miss Brown, Mrs Heald, Mrs Leonard, Miss Thorneycroft, Mrs Emerson, Mrs Acey, Mrs Drury, Mrs Ketley and Mr Allen.

### Attendance and Punctuality

I am delighted that the children have attended so well at the beginning of this term. A good attendance record has a very positive impact on children's achievement, their ability to socialise and their emotional well being.

We have been very impressed by the way in which you have followed our guidelines regarding staggered start and finish times this term. I am pleased to report that no learning has been disrupted because of the late arrival of any children.

**I also appreciate you following the government guidelines regarding not sending your child into school if they, or anyone in your household, have any symptoms of Coronavirus. If you are ever in doubt regarding if your child should come into school, please phone the school office before you bring them onto the school site. We will then be able to help you decide if it is safe to send them into school.**

Please remember that we are unable to authorise any absence due to holidays taken during term time and that penalty notices may be issued to parents of children who are absent due to a holiday (£60 per parent, per child). Holidays during term time can seriously disrupt children's learning. Not only do they miss the teaching provided on the days they are away, they are also less prepared for the lessons building on this learning after their return. As a result, your child's progress will be seriously slowed and there may also be a future risk of underachievement.

### Do you know how to keep your child safe at home when they are using a mobile phone, tablet or similar electronic device?

Although we teach the children about keeping themselves safe whilst online, we are still hearing concerning stories from some of our parents about unsuitable material or conversations their children have accessed (often quite by accident because settings on devices did not protect them). Many parents and staff are surprised and alarmed by the extent that some people will go to, to gain access to children online. If you feel that you would like to know more about how to keep you child safe online, please email me or the school office.

There is also information on our Website that will help you. Please look on the home page under Guidance and Information, and on the Parents' Section—under E-safety.



### Good Behaviour Policy

We are delighted with the behaviour of all of our pupils. You are very welcome to look at the good behaviour policy—or any other school policies. All policies are available from the school of-



**Marvellous Me** (years 1 to 6): If you have not already signed up to use Marvellous Me, please make sure you do so as soon as possible. We will be using this method to communicate with you and provide you with lots of additional information about your child's learning as well as changes within school this term. This saves us sending letters home.

## Visits Out of School

As most of you are aware, we regularly send children on out of school visits so that they can work with local businesses or visit places of interest. We know that these experiences really enhance their learning and achievement. It is therefore, with regret, that we have made the decision not to send any children out of school on visits this term. Due to the risk presented by Covid 19 we have decided that we are best able to keep the children safe within school.

As soon as the situation improves we will look into arranging visits for all year groups.

## School Uniform

I am delighted with the appearance of all the children in school, they look extremely smart and I thank you for your support of our school uniform policy.

Please remember to ensure that your child wears plain black school shoes. Sandshoes should be worn inside school. Please write your child's name in their uniform, this prevents any upset if items are misplaced.

## PE Kit

Please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit at school. This consists of a plain white T-shirt and plain red shorts. As most PE lessons this term will take place outside, children will need to wear trainers and outdoor kit for these lessons. Please remember that our outdoor kit consists of plain black sweatshirt and plain black jogging bottoms.

Please remember that PE kits should be sent into school every Monday and taken home to be washed every Friday. This allows us some flexibility regarding the day on which your child does PE as we keep an eye on the weather.

## Keeping Safe on the Playground Before and After School

Adults or children riding bikes or scooters on the playground before or after school presents a health and safety risk for other children and adults. Please make sure that your child does not ride his/her bike or scooter on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day.



For health and safety reasons it is essential that no children climb on the play equipment on the playground or field before or after school.

## Dogs on the school site

Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school site, even if being carried.



## Flu Vaccination

Parents of children from reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are being given the opportunity to have their child vaccinated against the flu virus. This will take place on Tuesday 1st December. Information will be sent home in the near future explaining how to complete a consent form via a link on our website.

## Car Parking:

It is imperative that no parents or taxis use the school drive to turn round, drop off or to park. For the sake of the safety of all of our pupils, please do not come onto the school site in your car to drop off or collect your children. This applies before, during and at the end of the school day. If you have a problem with this arrangement please make an appointment to discuss it with me as soon as possible.



## Free School Meals Important Information about Funding

We are trying to get additional funding into school to enable us to provide extra resources for the children. If at any time you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:-

**Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit (with an annual income of not more than £16,190 as assessed by the Inland Revenue), Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit run-on, Universal Credit during its initial roll out,** and you have not completed a form since receiving these benefits, please go onto the home page of our website. There you can complete a simple form that will ensure that your child gets

## Birthday Celebrations

We appreciate that many of you like to send a packet of sweets or some other little treat into school so that your children's classmates can help them to celebrate their birthday. However, for the time being we are asking you not to send any treats to school with your child. We will let you know when the situation makes it safe for this to resume.

## Jewellery

We don't consider it is necessary for your child to wear any jewellery whilst at school. However, if you feel that this is essential, please make sure that this is limited to one **small** pair of stud earrings in the lower lobe area and one watch; these must be removed for health and safety reasons when taking part in P.E. lessons.

## Music provision

We are delighted that every child in year 4 and year 5 is learning to play the violin this year. Comprehensive risk assessments have been carried out to ensure safe practices are used during these lessons which will take place once a fortnight. This way children will not share the violins within a short space of time.



## Outdoor Clothing

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school for playtimes and lunchtimes.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.stjameshullacademy.co.uk](http://www.stjameshullacademy.co.uk)

Please have a good look at our school website. We will be using this as our main method of communicating with parents and carers of pupils in all year groups. Class newsletters and letters regarding any changes to the school day etc will be posted on here on a regular basis. If your child's class teacher puts a letter onto the website, he/she will send you a Marvellous Me or a Tapestry message to let you know that it is on there. On the home page you will find all our information about Covid 19 (risk assessments etc). You will also find the link through which you can apply for free school meals here. Please also look at the Curriculum area; if you look at the drop down menu you will find lots of information about learning in your child's year group, including the latest newsletters which have been put on there this week. If you have any questions about the website, please email me.

## Term and holiday dates for 2020—2021

DATE	
Friday 23rd October	3.15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
Monday 2nd November	Teacher training day
Tuesday 3rd November	Children return to school
Friday 18th December	3:15 pm - School closes for the Christmas holidays
Monday 4th January	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school
Friday 12th February	3:15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
Monday 22nd February	Children return to school
Friday 26th March	3:15 pm - School closes for the Easter holiday
Monday 12th April	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 13th April	Children return to school
Friday 28th May	3:15 pm - School closes for the half term holiday
Monday 7th June	Children return to school
Friday 23rd July	3:15 pm - School closes for the summer holiday

### Wearing Face Masks when on the School Site

As we work hard to try to keep everyone in school safe, I would like to encourage parents and carers to wear a face mask whilst on the school playground. If you have any queries regarding this, please email me or phone the school office.

### STAFFING UPDATES

I know that many of you are already aware that our admin assistant, Mrs Fitzpatrick, retired from St James at the end of the summer term. It was disappointing that the children were not in school at this time so that we could give her a proper send off. I am sure you would want to join me in wishing Mrs Fitzpatrick a very happy and healthy retirement. Miss Adamson is now working in our office with Mrs Daddy.

Mrs Hunter, our previous year 3 teacher, is currently on maternity leave. I am delighted to let you know that her daughter arrived safely on Tuesday 22nd September.

Mrs Drury is now well established as our Emotional Wellbeing Worker (EWW). I know that she was in contact with many of you during the period of lockdown, providing support and advice as required. Mrs Drury will be working with any children who need additional support regarding any upset they may experience in their life, both at school and at home. She will work with some children on a long term basis whilst others will only require one or two meetings with her. If you have any questions for Mrs Drury or would like her to call you to discuss any worries, please email her on [adrury@stjameshull.co.uk](mailto:adrury@stjameshull.co.uk)

### Medicines in School

If your child has a medical condition, please make sure that the school has up to date information regarding medication etc. All parents/carers were asked to complete a new medical form at the beginning of this year. If you did not return this to school, or your child has a new medical condition, please email the office and ask for a form to be emailed to you.

Please remember that we cannot administer medication in school without a parent/carers first completing a consent form for staff to administer this. Children must not bring medicine into school, it must be brought to the school office by a parent/carers so that the consent form can be completed. Only someone with parental responsibility can give consent for medicines to be administered.

**Parents should make every effort to arrange for medicines to be administered outside of the school day, for example, if medicines need to be taken three times a day they should be taken before school, after school and at bedtime if possible.**