



Newsletter – 5th November 2021

Dear parents,

Just a few important updates this time and useful pieces of information, as well as some shocking revelations that will shake the St James' community to its very core (I have probably over promised there).

Free school lunches for Key Stage 2 in December

Once again, our anonymous and exceptionally generous donor has offered to pay for the school lunches for every child in Key Stage 2 during the month of December. Therefore if you have children in years 3 to 6 you can order a lunch that month without needing to pay.

You will appreciate that this is costing a very significant amount of money. Our donor understands that things are not easy for many people at the moment, and hopes that this will help families in the school through what is always a very expensive month.

Revised menu from Nourish

I am sure you will empathise with our caterers who are often struggling to source ingredients for the menu at present. Therefore they are going to revert to a three choice menu to ensure that they are more able to deliver the correct menu each day as scheduled. The new menu is attached to this newsletter.

Parent consultations

Please arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment and we ask that you leave as soon as your last appointment is finished to minimise crowding within the school; I have asked teachers to ensure they are very prompt with their timings to avoid any queues outside classrooms, so please do not be offended if some teachers use sand timers or similar to help them keep on time. Consultations will be in classrooms and not in the school halls. Teachers will maintain a safe distance and classrooms will be well ventilated and so please wrap up warm.

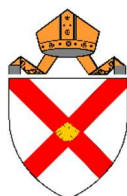
Please enter the school through the main doors if the children are in the juniors, through the Early Years entrance if they are in Reception and and through the old infant entrance if they are in years 1 or 2.

If you have not booked your consultations yet, you have until 3:30pm today for Monday slots and 3:30pm on Monday for Thursday slots. Otherwise you will need to email your class teacher directly.

Please wait outside the classroom for your appointment; to prevent the spread of infection we would be grateful if parents could wear a mask while in the school. Please consider taking a lateral flow test before you attend your appointment.

Ofsted parent view

Please do visit the Ofsted Parent View website and give your views on St James'. Ofsted will take these into account when inspecting the school, and we expect this to be very soon. Last year a request resulted in only 16 responses, so I would be very grateful if we could improve on that. Both parents can give separate responses if they wish, and the school will not see any comments they choose to make.



Monday 15th November – odd socks day for Anti-Bullying week

The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying week is 'One Kind Word'. The children will be taking part in activities to help them understand the importance of kindness. The week will begin with Odd Socks day on Monday 15th November; we would like your child to wear odd socks that day to help them think about what makes them unique.

Dogs

Please remember that we do not allow dogs on site at any time, including those being carried or those brought to school to collect/drop off at after school clubs.

Message from the PTA

Well done to all the bouncy children on Wednesday - you were brilliant. And thank you to everyone who helped out. Look out for an update next week once all the prizes have been awarded. It's not too late to donate and every donation will be doubled through match funding.

<https://localgiving.org/charity/stjamespta/project/boing/>

Don't forget it's the AGM and Christmas planning meeting next Wednesday (10 December). Please join us at 9am just by the main entrance to the school. Everyone is welcome, including your babies and preschoolers. Why not come along and help plan some lovely Christmas events for the children?

And one last PTA date for your diary - the next uniform sale is set for Monday 22 December at drop off. Please keep your donations coming in.

Where are all the crisps?

If anyone knows where I can source a multi-pack of crisps (acceptable flavours only & no lentil/beetroot/hemp ones), I would be very grateful to know. In Crowborough at least, there seems to have been a run on them. And anchovies.

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
November 2021

