



Happy New Year!

Dear parents and carers,

This is just a very short letter to formally welcome you back to the new term.

Nothing shouts "Happy New Year!" more than sawing up the prickly family Christmas tree and then forcing its dismembered carcass into the garden waste bin; an act simultaneously liberating and depressing, and like the book "A squash and a squeeze" your home then magically feels slightly roomier.

I hope you had a lovely break and were able to share some time with friends and family. This was the first Christmas we had as a family since 2019 and we were very excited to be able to welcome all of the elderly relatives to our home again, and then wait on them hand and foot for a whole day. My children are now a little too old to be swept up by the magic of Christmas, but I am happy to report that Father Christmas paid each one of them a visit.

The children at St James' have already settled brilliantly and their new topics are already in full swing. Remember that you can view the whole school curriculum on our website to see what they will be learning.

Gravel

The gravel pile is destined to move onto the field (hopefully very soon) for the new path. It will then be replaced by an equally large pile of mulch, which will then also go up onto the field. Apologies for the reduced space in the car park and thank you for your patience and understanding.

Mobile phones and smart watches

Please could we remind all parents that children should not be bringing any mobile phones or any internet enabled 'smart' watches in to school. As well as being part of our safeguarding policy, we'd hate for things to get lost or broken in school so, if your child was lucky enough to get a new device for Christmas, please remind them to leave it safely at home. If you feel there are exceptional circumstances where your child needs a mobile phone or other device in school, please email John Tutt or Lucy Hayward for approval.

New staff members

We welcomed some new members of staff to the team this week. Eleanor Calvert has joined our teaching team; she is working in Year 6 at the moment, but will take over the reigns from Vicky Oakley in Fox class when she begins her maternity leave. You may have seen a new face in our office as Milu Garach has joined our admin team as the school's new Finance Manager. Lastly, we welcome Emilia Hadfield as one of our Teaching Assistants. I would like to welcome them all publicly to the St James' family.

Dates for the diary

Here are some dates for the remainder of the term ahead.

16 th January	KS2 choir going to the O2 for Young Voices
w/c 6 th February	Year 1 classes visiting The Amelia this week
7 th February	Year 1 led church service – Y1 parents welcome to attend



10 th February	INSET day – school closed for children
13 th February	Half term week
20 th February	Children return to school
28 th March	Year 5 led church service – Y5 parents welcome to attend
29 th March	Easter RE day
31 st March	Last day of term
17 th April	Children return to school
Year 6 leave for their residential week	
1 st May	Bank holiday
2 nd May	INSET day – school closed for children
8 th May	Bank holiday (coronation)
9 th May	Year 6 SATs week begins
29 th May	Half term week begins
5 th June	Children return to school

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

