

Welcome back to everyone, albeit it rather belatedly. Hopefully you all enjoyed the break wherever it was taken and for most, I suspect, in very varied weather conditions. The freshness of a new school year enhances our enthusiasm as we settle in for the academic year ahead. Your children have all returned refreshed and ready for the challenge of their next academic year and we all look forward to a successful year.

As always the school has seen a summer spruce up and I would thank all our cleaners for their hard work during the break. The building is very clean and tidy in spite of the difficulties summer works caused to the cleaning programme. Schedules were met, however, and we now have a very modern school kitchen following a major refurbishment programme. Hopefully this will make the catering staff's lives a little easier. The execution of these works reaffirms the school's commitment to providing the very best meals service and I hope you and your children will continue to give it your support by making use of school lunches on a regular basis. Our School Council is currently undertaking a survey of school meals and we look forward to receiving their feedback on current provision and their suggestions for developments. The opportunity was also taken to square off an area to the music room block to provide an additional stock storage area for our school uniform shop. Space in schools is always at a premium but this small area should ease storage problems for Mrs Mowbray.

It is pleasing to be able to report good news at the beginning of the year. Sharron Shakespeare has given birth to Megan Alexandra and Mary Berkeley-Agyepong also has a new baby daughter, Gabriella. Our congratulations to both families.

CAR PARK

Problems continue to arise with unauthorised use of the school car park. Parents are reminded that no unauthorised access is permitted between 8 am and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. **FOR SAFETY'S SAKE PLEASE OBSERVE THESE RESTRICTIONS.**

PARENT HELPERS

Mrs Lawlor is now co-ordinating offers of help in classrooms and the Library. Any parents who are able to offer time on a regular basis are asked to let Mrs Lawlor know.

RE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached for your information the RE Newsletter for the Autumn Term.

SCHOOL BOOK SHOP

Thank you to Mrs Stock, our School Book Shop Co-ordinator, and her team of Mrs Barrington, Mrs Daly, Mrs Dolan, Mrs Lucia, Mrs Kavanagh and Mrs Parry. I have just been presented with a commission cheque for £1,000 from the Book Shop which will be put towards providing some new classroom based book resources. These additional funding streams are of enormous benefit to the school and I would also thank you for your support of our Book Shop which enabled this superb result. Please note School Book Shop will be moving to Mondays after half term due to timetabling issues in school. I very much hope you will continue to allow your children to utilise this facility. The buying of stamps towards the purchase of a book is in itself a good lesson in saving.

THANK YOU – SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

Ongoing

We are still collecting Persil Stars, Box Tops, Kingsmill tokens, toner cartridges and old mobile phones.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

All children (including Year 6) should be wearing the regulation school coats and regulation PE kits. Year 6 pupils are expected to maintain the wearing of regular uniform **throughout their final year.** Parents are reminded that our uniform regulations include a dress code that extends to appropriate haircuts and the wearing of jewellery. It has become noticeable that a number of girls are adopting hair styles that could fall into the category of extreme due to various coloured hair bands and the use of extensions. I would request parents to take note of this issue.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance and punctuality records at St James the Great have always been commended. There are, however, one or two children who are currently regularly late and we would ask you to endeavour to ensure children arrive at school between 9 and 9.15 am ready for a prompt start. Unless attending a pre-school activity children should not be unattended on the site before 9 am. Parents are reminded that infant pupils should remain under the supervision of an adult until their class is called into school.

ISABELLA PERALES – APPEAL

Please find attached to this newsletter a letter from Isabella’s mother appealing for your support for a sponsored run being undertaken to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The letter explains it all – please help if you can.
