

THE SCOOP

Issue 1 Friday 4th September

Focus on: Co-operation

Early September – Letters sent home to all year 6 parents explaining how to apply for secondary places

Tue 1st -School INSET Day – Closed for Pupils today

Wed 2nd -- Children back to school today Y1-6

Fri 4th – Year Group Power-Points will be sent

Mon 7th - Reception start part time sessions + Year 6 online secondary transfer applications open

Tue 8th and Thursday 10th - Move More coaching starts + International Day of Literacy

Tue 8th and Wed 9th -- Football coaching from Cheltenham Town Starts

Wed 9th - Year 2 Cricket coaching starts + Y1 Move More Gym starts

Mon 14th - Clubs start today

Wed 16th - Year 1 Circus Skills Day all day + National TA Day!



St James'
Church of England
Primary School

SEPTEMBER



*We are blessed to be back
with our school family.*

Welcome Back! Welcome Back Welcome Back!



Welcome back everyone; we do hope that you have all had an enjoyable break. Despite so many restrictions due to Covid19, we are very much looking forward to this term at school. The teachers have planned exciting learning opportunities to engage your children with a focus on ensuring as always that our curriculum is broad and balanced. Although there are a great deal of restrictions placed upon all of us this term, particularly in school, we plan to make the best of it!

It is a shame that we are unable to invite parents into school at the moment, we hope you took time to watch the videos shared by their new teachers when they took over the class Padlets last term. We are in the process of working out safe ways (through support from the LA) to enable parents to meet our teachers and will share this with you once we can. This is a tricky year for parent communication but we hope that we can make sure that your children are happy and well supported—this is important to us! All of our documents have been sent out again this term and can also be found on our [BookBag](https://stjamesbookbag.home.blog/school-opening-september-2020/) - - <https://stjamesbookbag.home.blog/school-opening-september-2020/>

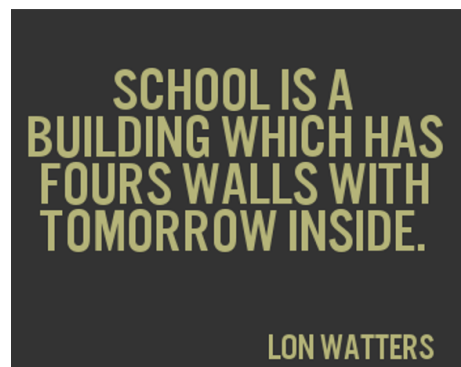
May I also take this opportunity to welcome back Mrs Knight, Mrs Hanks and Mrs Pullen who all return from maternity leave, it is lovely to have them back. We also welcome Mrs Kelley Sutton as Chair of our governing body—I am sure she will help us to make our school even better.

Next week our Diary Dates will be published—we are waiting for a few final dates to be confirmed. We will also share our clubs list—this term has limited provision and is being covered by external providers—we hope to add to the list after half term but we are working within Covid19 guidelines and operating in bubbles.

Finally, welcome to all our new children and parents; St. James' is a happy friendly school which truly is at the heart of the community – we hope you and your children are very happy here. We will do our best to make you feel like part of our family despite the Covid19 restriction. WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL START TO TERM!



Lisa Harford—Headteacher



Start of Term Arrangements...just a few things to remember

Start of term arrangements... just a few things to remind you about!

ATTENDANCE

Please ensure your child attends school every day unless you are isolating. Please make sure you contact us to let us know if your child will be absent and the reason—this is very useful to track trends in illness. If your child is ill please let us know what the problem is (sickness, Influenza, etc). At the moment we are operating a staggered start— children need to be at school between 8:25-8:35 or 8:35-8:45 please arrive promptly. Collection time is 2:50-3:00. Thank you for your ongoing support to help make this work and keep everyone safe.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOL

If you need to pass on a message to your child's teacher please either call the school office or email admin@st-james-pri.gloucs.sch.uk—this is the quickest way to get a response. Please refrain from emailing teachers directly— now all children are back they do not have the time in the day to read, action or reply to your questions. Our lovely admin staff Lisa Iles and Tracy Clarke and Hazel Martindale will be able to help you and ensure a speedy response.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children have come back to school looking very smart in their uniforms. May I please remind parents of the importance of ensuring that all items of uniform are named; it is impossible to return unnamed uniform to its' rightful owner and we really do not have enough space to store a lot of lost property. Any unclaimed, un-named lost property will be disposed of at the end of each half term. If your child has lost something, they will need to search for it with the staff now instead of parents so even more important to name everything. **Please remember we do not allow any type of earring to be worn, those that have newly pierced ears may cover them with tape until they can take them out. A no earring policy ensures that all children at all times are safe. Please speak with me if you have any concerns.**

NUT ALLERGIES

We currently have several children in school who have very severe nut allergies. May I please remind parents that they are asked not to provide peanut butter sandwiches, bags of peanuts (or mixed nuts) or other products which are obviously nut based. I am aware that many food products display warnings such as 'may contain traces of nuts'. Parents do not need to eliminate all of these from lunchboxes but be sensible. Please also remind your child that snacks should be: fruit, fruit based products e.g. fruit bars, bread sticks, cereal bars or similar. Freedom Friday is the only day that we allow other snacks. Any child bringing in crisps etc. on any other day will be asked to put them away. We hope to encourage healthy eating but also the ability for children to make choices and understand how balancing a diet works. **PLEASE NO NUTS OR CHOCOLATE FOR SNACKS, OR NUTS IN SCHOOL.**



PARKING

Thank you for the sensible approach to parking this term so far! With less parking at school many of you are embracing the walk to school THANK YOU! Not only does it reduce cars at school and keep children and families safe, it also reduces car fumes. Please remember to park sensibly and have compassion for our neighbours. They are incredibly tolerant of the huge amount of traffic twice a day but can become frustrated with inconsiderate parking (over driveways or on roundabouts or double yellow lines). Please help us make sure our neighbours and our children are safe.

COVID INFORMATION

This is all contained in our school book bag in a new September 2020 Section—<https://stjamesbookbag.home.blog/school-opening-september-2020/>

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Unfortunately we cannot offer sessions at school at the moment—instead we have sent detailed presentations home for you. If you have any questions or queries Mrs Smith and I myself are on the gate daily or email our admin team with your query.

This term our usual presentations for EYFS, Phonics and SATs cannot take place due to Covid19 restrictions. Presentations will be sent out to you and timings for these are identified in the Date in the Diary due to come out early next week.

Peripatetic music lessons

Peripatetic music lessons are available in school for the following instruments; woodwind, brass, piano, drums, guitar and ukulele. Please email the office if you are interested in your child beginning to learn.

GERMAN LESSONS Y3-6

We are so excited! Mrs Reiner, our amazing teaching assistant will be teaching German throughout the juniors. She is obviously fluent in German and will have the support of Mrs Avery and the teachers to develop German across the school. This will mean that the children will receive high quality and consistent language support. Having spoken to our local secondary schools they tell us that children come from across Cheltenham with a variety of languages taught—they start from scratch when they start year 7 anyway, mostly with French, building a strong culture of language which will benefit the children.

No Child Left Behind

We are pleased to be part of the No Child Left Behind project across Cheltenham.

No Child Left Behind is a project in Cheltenham that aims to help all young people to thrive.

In 2018, Cheltenham partners commissioned a needs assessment that highlighted that there were around 4400 children and young people in our town living in poverty. It also showed that, when compared to their more affluent peers, they faced significant challenges such as poorer educational attainment, higher rates of school exclusion, poorer mental and physical health, were more likely to be under social care and were more likely to be victims of crime. We wanted to change this... We will share further information as we go through this year.



Sport and PE at St. James'

This is at the heart of our school. To ensure that we can provide the full PE curriculum we will be using part of Bournside field again. For the second year we will be using Real PE where the values of sport underpin the lessons e.g. teamwork and perseverance. Children will be working with coaches again this year (Cheltenham Town, Move More, Gloucestershire Cricket). Children will be wearing their PE Kit to school, please use common sense (shorts, tracksuit) but also stick to school PE kit where possible. Mrs Smith—Deputy Head



Crisp packet and Pringles tub recycling...

Thanks to Mrs Theyer and her knitting skills—the sale of knitted ducks raised enough money to purchase two new crisp recycling bins. KEEP RECYCLING!



From the office

Parent Helpers Wanted for later this term!

Can you spare a few hours each week, if so we are looking for parents to help in school. **Towards the end of term.** Please email the office and let us know of your availability, We hope to invite parent helpers back once we are happy with safety.

Please remember to return your signed data sheets as soon as possible. These form an important part of our information base and help when we need to contact you.

Please bring medicines to the school office and complete a permission slip if you need medicine administered.

Please email us with any question no matter how small—we are here to help you and will make sure your questions are answered. Teachers are available to chat on the phone, Mrs Dove, Mrs Smith, Mrs Wood and Mrs Harford can also be contacted via the school admin email address.



St James'
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School Calendar 2020-2021

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2020/2021



SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Mon 1 7 14 21 28	Mon 5 12 19 26	Mon 2 9 16 23 30
Tues 2 8 15 22 29	Tues 6 13 20 27	Tues 3 10 17 24
Wed 3 9 16 23 30	Wed 7 14 21 28	Wed 4 11 18 25
Thur 4 10 17 24	Thur 1 8 15 22 29	Thur 5 12 19 26
Fri 5 11 18 25	Fri 2 9 16 23 30	Fri 6 13 20 27
Sat 6 12 19 26	Sat 3 10 17 24 31	Sat 7 14 21 28
Sun 7 13 20 27	Sun 4 11 18 25	Sun 1 8 15 22 29
DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Mon 7 14 21 28	Mon 4 11 18 25	Mon 1 8 15 22
Tues 8 15 22 29	Tues 5 12 19 26	Tues 2 9 16 23
Wed 9 16 23 30	Wed 6 13 20 27	Wed 3 10 17 24
Thur 10 17 24 31	Thur 7 14 21 28	Thur 4 11 18 25
Fri 11 18 25	Fri 8 15 22 29	Fri 5 12 19 26
Sat 12 19 26	Sat 9 16 23 30	Sat 6 13 20 27
Sun 13 20 27	Sun 10 17 24 31	Sun 7 14 21 28
MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Mon 1 8 15 22 29	Mon 5 12 19 26	Mon 3 10 17 24 31
Tues 2 9 16 23 30	Tues 6 13 20 27	Tues 4 11 18 25
Wed 3 10 17 24 31	Wed 7 14 21 28	Wed 5 12 19 26
Thur 4 11 18 25	Thur 1 8 15 22 29	Thur 6 13 20 27
Fri 5 12 19 26	Fri 2 9 16 23 30	Fri 7 14 21 28
Sat 6 13 20 27	Sat 3 10 17 24	Sat 1 8 15 22 29
Sun 7 14 21 28	Sun 4 11 18 25	Sun 2 9 16 23 30
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Mon 7 14 21 28	Mon 5 12 19 26	Mon 2 9 16 23 30
Tues 8 15 22 29	Tues 6 13 20 27	Tues 3 10 17 24 31
Wed 9 16 23 30	Wed 7 14 21 28	Wed 4 11 18 25
Thur 10 17 24	Thur 1 8 15 22 29	Thur 5 12 19 26
Fri 11 18 25	Fri 2 9 16 23 30	Fri 6 13 20 27
Sat 12 19 26	Sat 3 10 17 24 31	Sat 7 14 21 28
Sun 13 20 27	Sun 4 11 18 25	Sun 1 8 15 22 29

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	Inset Day

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2020 28 th December 2020
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2021
Good Friday	2 nd April 2021
Easter Monday	5 th April 2021
Early May Bank Holiday	3 rd May 2021
Spring Bank Holiday	31 st May 2021
Summer Bank Holiday	30 th August 2021

- Term 1: Tues 8th Sept - Fri 29th Oct 2020 50 days
 - Term 2: Mon 2nd Nov - Fri 18th Dec 2020 55 days
 - Term 3: Mon 4th Jan - Fri 12th Feb 2021 30 days
 - Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb - Thurs 1st April 2021 39 days
 - Term 5: Mon 19th April - Fri 29th May 2021 39 days
 - Term 6: Mon 7th June - Weds 21st July 2021 33 days
- Total 195 days

195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2020/21 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend).

Please Note: Schools considering alternative dates or considering changes to their school opening times may wish to contact our Transport Team to discuss transport implications and contact local childcare providers to discuss what impact this could have.