

Miss Dowdye's Termly Newsletter

Time waits for no one!

I would firstly like to apologise for the lack of newsletters you have received from me recently. As you can imagine, there have been so many things happening that it has left me extremely busy! Everything is starting to calm down a bit, so while I have this time I thought I would update you all on the work that has been taking place at St James Hatcham.

A letter was recently sent out to all parents from Ms. McFarlane regarding us as a school being up to date with who picks up each child at the end of the school day. I know you may feel like it is a tedious task to complete, but it is a process which will help us a great deal at the end of the school day. It also safeguards your own children to ensure that they are not leaving the school premises with an unauthorised adult. Not many of these forms have been returned, so please fill these out and submit it back to the school office immediately.

Mental Health and the Government agenda

Mental health awareness week
8 – 14th May 2017



As you will have seen in the media, the government have highlighted the issue of mental health in children and young people. Within today's society it is estimated that at least 1 in every 10 children/ young people are currently suffering with a mental health problem.

I am proud to say that here at St James we have

been identifying this need long before the government agenda and will continue to do our utmost to support our children and parents.

It is a great idea for everyone to have some sort of knowledge on the current issues that can affect our children. Please visit any of the following websites to gain more of an insight in to this topic, as well as helpful resources on topics such as e-safety, self-esteem, building personal skills and the impact of the digital world on identity.

- www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/children-and-young-people
- www.minded.org.uk
- www.youngminds.org.uk
- www.headstogether.org.uk/support/



Peer Mediation

Even though the children have been undertaking their peer mediation roles since last year, I am looking to recruit more children to join our special team from September – especially boys!

Please see me if you are interested and keep a look out for the current peer mediators in their blue jackets. Speak to any of them if you need help to address an issue during your break and lunchtimes.



Our School Councillors need your help!

During a recent school council meeting, the children started by informing me of how upset they were regarding the letter sent out discussing cuts to education funding. The children clearly took on the points made by Ms McFarlane in the letter and started to have their own discussions about what they could do to help out school community.

As a team, the School Council representatives have decided that they would like to run some fundraising activities. They are currently in talks with myself to put together a proposal which they will submit to Ms McFarlane. If you yourself have any ideas or would like to lend a hand please speak to your School Council class representative.

Once we have all the details and dates confirmed we will let you know.



Important notice...

If your child incurs any issues which you feel may affect their behaviour or attitude whilst at school, please let us know. We try our best to accommodate any transitions that our families may be experiencing but can only do this in partnership with you, our parents.

If you feel you need any further help you should talk to your child's class teacher or doctor to find out what help is available. Any of these people will be able to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Here at St James the Safeguarding officers are:

Ms McFarlane – Head Teacher

Ms Rose – Inclusion Manager

Miss Dowdye – Learning Mentor

We are always on hand for any advice or support you may require

Reminders to Parents and children

Drop in sessions take place on the following days:

Tuesday (lunchtime) – Children only

Wednesday (2.45 – 3.15pm) – Parent/ Carers only

Thursday (lunchtime) – Children only

Please feel free to contact me at any other time to make an appointment or find me in the playground after school.

Last Terms Attendance & Punctuality Highlights

Attendance	Punctuality
Reception: 95.8%	95.3%
Year 1: 97.2%	99.0%
Year 2: 96.8%	98.6%
Year 3: 97.7%	98.5%
Year 4: 98.1%	98.4%
Year 5: 97.4%	94.7%
Year 6: 97.3%	98.6%

Congratulations to Team 4 for having the best attendance and Team 1 for the best punctuality

Special Mention...



As you may be aware Year 6 are due to sit their SATS examinations next week (week beginning 8th May). This week I have been present each afternoon in the Team 6 classroom to undertake some massage sessions. The children have greatly enjoyed their relaxation time and I will continue the sessions each afternoon next week so that the children can continue to use this as a way to distress.

We wish them the best of luck and know that they will do their absolute best!

