



St James's Jotter

October 2023

Fancy Dress

Reminder that children can wear Fancy Dress to school on Friday 27th October. This can be Hallowe'en themed (not too scary!) or other fancy dress. There will be a small prize for the best costumes in each class. If your child does not wish to wear fancy dress, they can wear their ordinary clothes. Please note that Friday 28th October is a normal school day. We ask that accessories such as broomsticks, swords, etc remain at home.

Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 30th October until Friday 3rd November inclusive. We will reopen as normal on Monday 7th November. From Monday 6th November, our Year 3 children will stay in school until 3.00pm. Please remember that our holidays can be found on our website in the 'About Us' tab.

Attendance Matters

Please use this link to see information from the Department of Education regarding school attendance. <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/attendance-matters-a-parents-guide.pdf>

We carry out regular attendance reviews and a letter will be sent home to parents whose child's attendance is less than 90%. We appreciate that there may be reasons for absence such as sickness but we like to keep you informed so as you are aware of your child's percentage attendance. We would like to remind you that family holidays should not be taken during term time. Attendance percentages can be misleading so this table from the Department of Education changes the percentage into days. [LINK](#)

Lateness

Most of our children come to school on time and are collected promptly. However, we have noticed an increase in the number of children late to school and collected late from school. Letters will be sent home this week to some families indicating the level of lateness. We hope that this reminder encourages parents to make a determined effort to address the issue.

Pupils' Council

We are delighted that our Pupils' Council for 23-24 has been elected and we look forward to all the great work the children will do over the coming months. Well done to everyone who stood for election. [LINK](#)

Eco Council

After an application process, our Eco Council has been selected for this school year. Well done to everyone who submitted an application. We wish the Eco Council well with their very important work, especially this year when we are going for the 'Green Flag.'

St James's Soccer Club

Mr Jones and Mr Farrell are inviting children from Y5-Y7 to join the weekly Soccer Club. It will take place after school each Thursday from 3:00-3:50pm. The numbers are limited and preference will be given to the Year 7 pupils first. Notes will be going home today. We ask for a contribution of £1.00 in cash per session.

Out and About

Sat 7th Oct-family friendly woodland themed story telling at Cavehill/Belfast Castle 4pm to 6pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wild-woods:storytelling-tickets-728254517867>

Parent Teacher Meetings

Reminder that the Parent Teacher meetings will take place on Monday 27th November. The children are not at school that day. Meetings that cannot be held on that day, will be re-arranged for later that week. Everyone will receive a note from your child's teacher with a date and time for your meeting. Please ensure that you return the reply slip as soon as possible.

Maths Week

Maths Week Ireland is celebrated this month from 16th -20th. We will be very active in school looking at all aspects of maths. Talk to your child(ren) about their activities and you can even try some of your own. Keep a look out on SeeSaw and our school website.

Awarded Gold

I am delighted to announce that the school will be officially awarded the Gold level achievement from Sustrans on 11th October. This is an acknowledgement of our efforts to encourage children to walk and cycle or scoot to school. A special thanks to Mrs Magill and her class for co-ordinating and promoting this.

Our website

Please remember to visit our website regularly to see all the wonderful learning opportunities our children enjoy. www.stjamesps.co.uk

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on the 17th and 18th October to take individual /family photographs. I would encourage parents to ensure that the children are in full school uniform on those days.

Ready to Read Workshop

A workshop for parents of Year 1 and Year 2 children will take place in the hall on Thursday 26th October at 2:15pm. We aim to help parents to understand a range of early reading strategies including phonics and sight vocabulary in a fun and active way. Supervision of the school children will be available to those parents who need it on the day.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £197.49. Thank you for your generosity.

PTA Quiz Night

The PTA have organized a table quiz on Thursday evening 26th in The Sipster in Whiteabbey Village at 7.30pm. Entry fee will be £5.00 per person. All welcome for a great night's craic.

Wear Yellow for Mental Day

Next Tuesday 10th is World Mental Health Awareness Day. We are asking all the children to wear yellow that day. There will be lots of well being activities done in the classes. We ask for a contribution of £1.00 to be paid through School Money.

Value of the Month: Kindness

Monthly Mathemagician: working with Numicon