

**Open Night**

We are looking forward to welcoming parents/guardians and children who are considering attending our Nursery or Year 1 in September 2024.The Open Evening is on 7th December from 5:00-7:00pm.

**Admissions Process**

All applications for St James’s Nursery Unit and Primary School for September 2024 will be completed online using the Education Authority’s Admissions Portal. There is clear guidance about completion of the application on the website.

The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application.   An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2024 will be treated as a late application.

For further information please contact the Education Authority using these details:

Department of education Website: [www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)Tel: 02891279231 E-mail: [schooladmissionsteam@eduaction-ni.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissionsteam@eduaction-ni.gov.uk)

Please ensure that you refer to our admissions criteria when making your application.  If you have any difficulties with your application, please contact Mrs Brown in the school office.

**Christmas Concerts**

Christmas fever is on its way! Please remember that we only have a limited number of tickets available per child and these must be booked through School Money from.  We will then send home tickets which must be brought for admission to the concert.  In Nursery and Years 1 – 4, you can book up to three tickets and for Years 5 – 7 (Carol Service) you can book up to two tickets per child.  Please ensure that you have ordered tickets through School Money **no later than Friday 8th December 2023**.  This year, in light of the cost of living crisis, we are not asking you to buy tickets for the Christmas performances.  However, we would be grateful if you could make a donation to our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal using School Money.  St Vincent de Paul does wonderful work to help our local community throughout the year and we like to show our support by raising funds to help their vital work. Dates to be confirmed on SeeSaw next week!

**Dog’s Trust**

We had some great fun activities this week with Paula from the Dog’s Trust who emphasised the importance of staying safe around dogs and how to look after them.

**Christmas Dinner**

The children’s Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 13th December.  Your child’s Christmas dinner needs to be ordered on School Money by Monday 5th December.  In order to add to the festive spirit, the children can wear Christmas jumpers, hats etc to school on the 13th December.

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**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Reminder that the Parent Teacher meetings will take place on Monday 27th November.  The children are not at school that day.

**Ready to Read Workshop**

A workshop for parents of Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 children will took place in the hall on Thursday 26th October. Parents/ Guardians were actively involved in many reading skills and even learned some tricks and hints. Thank you to the staff from Years 1-3 and LSC1 who worked hard to enhance the presentation. Thanks to the parents for full participation. The evaluations were very positive. The presentation will be available on the website.

**PTA Quiz Night**

The PTA raised almost £800 for our school at the PTA quiz in the Sipster. Great fun and absolutely no cheating occurred!! Well done and thank you to all involved.

**Wear Yellow for Mental Day**

We raised almost £200 on the day. This will contribute to ‘Joe the Drums’ well-being session for the whole school on 13th December.

**Winter Coat Recycling Scheme**

Last year we had a very successful Winter Coat Recycle Scheme and we propose to do the same this year. We ask that you donate any outgrown winter coats that are clean and in good condition. Please place them in the box provided at reception from tomorrow on and all of next week. Starting on Monday 20th to Friday 24th November the coats will be available from the back of the assembly Hall from 2:00-3.30 each day. Recycling at its best!

**Anti-Bullying Week**

We will be celebrating Anti-Bullying Week from 13-17 November. We will kick off with cosy toes in our Odd Socks Day activities, celebrating our differences, and continue with a range of activities throughout the week. Monday is World Kindness Day and we will be completing our whole school Kindness Quilt.

**Learning Trips**

Year 1 classes and Year 5/6 are going out to learn this month. Our Primary one classes are going on a Gruffalo Trail and Year 5/6 are visiting Mossley Mill for a Business Masterclass with Young Enterprise NI.

**School Closure**

As previously notified, the school will close on Thursday 16th November due to strike action of non-teaching staff. It will re-open again on Friday 17th November.

**Upcoming Assemblies**

Year 4 assembly on Wednesday 22nd November. Parents and families welcome.

Please wait in the canteen where you can enjoy tea/coffee until 9:15.

**Transfer Tests**

A number of our Year 7 pupils will be sitting the first paper of the SEAG test for transferring into post primary grammar schools this weekend. The children have worked hard consistently over the past year or more and we congratulate them on all their efforts. We wish them the best of luck in both papers!

**Value of the Month:** respect

**Monthly Mathemagician:** using ICT for maths learning



St James’s Jotter

November 2023