



9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 2 Headteacher Update**

I have been thoroughly impressed with how all our children have settled back into the normal routine of school life following the summer. They have been engaged, and enthusiastic and have worked hard in their first few days. All children have already begun demonstrating our school values of Family, Faith and Excellence. Can I take the opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for your support and ask that you continue to pray for our school family as we move through the school year.

Our Year 7 students have truly embraced the start of their journey at St James'. They are already showing great potential to become an outstanding year group. Currently, they are actively preparing to give thanks at our upcoming whole school Mass this Friday. It has been wonderful hearing their beautiful voices as they rehearse hymns, especially 'Shine Jesus Shine'.

Advanced notice that we have our Open Evening taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> September, Thursday next week, and as such, school will close at **1.15pm for our children**. The school buses have been arranged to arrive at this earlier time. If your child is supporting either as a guide or within a Faculty area, please ensure that you have completed the consent link, which will be emailed to you this week, and that you have arranged to collect them from school **no later than 8pm**.

You may have noticed that our letterhead has been updated since my letter last week, as we are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Eco-Schools Award with distinction. This achievement is the result of the hard work and dedication from both staff and children, with every area of the school contributing to this success. We are absolutely delighted to receive this recognition, which reflects our commitment to sustainability and environmental education.

As we celebrated Education Sunday yesterday, the Gospel reading from St Mark's account; "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak", reminds us of the transformative power of education and understanding. In our school, we strive to create an environment where every child's voice is heard, and every mind is opened to new possibilities. Just as Jesus enabled those who could not hear or speak to fully engage with the world around them, our duty is to empower our children to overcome challenges, find their voice, and actively participate in their learning journey. Education is about unlocking potential, fostering communication, and ensuring that no child feels silenced or unseen. As we continue to grow as a family, let us embrace this Gospel message, working together to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive, express themselves, and be heard.

I hope you have a fantastic week and if you need anything please do not hesitate to get in touch  
[headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher