



13th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 5 Headteacher Update

Yesterday was the seventh Sunday of Easter and in John's Gospel we hear how Jesus prays for his disciples, who very soon will be left without his physical presence. Although he seems to leave them, Jesus insists they belong to him, and to God; and, therefore, not to this world. We are worldly when we live as if God did not exist, or as if Christ had not died and risen again; when we choose to value what is ephemeral and passing over what lasts forever. That is something we can perhaps all think about this week and consider what we value here on earth supporting our children to develop and grow in faith as part of our school family.

The Year 11 children have been excellent in their examinations so far and they have shown a real commitment to their studies with high attendance at revision lessons. I ask that you continue to keep all our Year 11s in your thoughts and prayers during this key time of their school career.

This week our Year 9 football team will play in the Catholic Cup semi final, we wish them all the best in this match. Our sports teams are a real strength of our school and the commitment shown by the staff and children is fantastic. Engagement in sport, as well as other extracurricular activities, supports children in developing their skills, as well as resilience and develop friendships. A list of our extracurricular offer can be found [here](#).

At St James' full engagement in school life is a key part of supporting children to become global Catholic citizens; can I therefore please ask for your support in the following. From 3rd June all children are required to change into their PE kits in order to take part in the PE lesson. If children need to be excused due to a medical reason, a letter is still required and the child will still be expected to change and participate in the lesson. The rationale for this is from a health and safety perspective. All pupils are required to be involved in the lesson either as a participant, an umpire, a coach, a leader or an assessor, as such it is important that they are dressed appropriately. Additionally, when the weather conditions are poor, it means the pupils will have dry clothes to change into for the rest of the day. Failure to bring in a PE kit will result in a C2 for not being fully equipped for the lesson.

Many of our Year 10 children have applied to be Prefects and the interviews for Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Boy and Deputy Head Girl will take place in the coming weeks. The applications written by the Year 10s were excellent and we look forward to assigning them to the Prefect teams of Family, Faith and Excellence. They are real ambassadors for our school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Year 11 Prefect team for their commitment to this important role within school.

On Friday of this week, some of our Year 10 children will complete their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment Expedition. We wish the children and staff team all the very best with their expedition and let's hope the weather is kinder than for their practice expedition!

Have a great week and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Your faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher