



# ST JAMES

## Preparatory School

Dear Parents

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed so generously to our Under One Sky charity that supports the homeless in London. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity and the hallway is just bursting with your kind gifts. Thank You!

Our Harvest Festival Assembly was opened by India who is a pupil in Year 9 at the senior Girls' School. India has been supporting the charity for several years and she goes on regular 'Sky Walks' with her family. She told the children that she would be helping to distribute their donations and you could see they were inspired by the example she has set. This year we will be working with the Senior Girls' School to support the same charity and I am excited to think of the positive impact we will have together.

In our staff meeting this week we celebrated the safe arrival of Mrs Slaters' healthy baby boy who was born on a Monday. We are delighted for her and her family. Mrs Kravchenko (Miss Nataliia) also had a little boy at the end of the holidays and his name is James - how lovely is that! We can't wait to see the new babies in person.



If your child plays an instrument and you would like them to perform in one of our music performance teas then please fill in this form as we have our first event on Wednesday afternoon at <https://forms.office.com/e/JX93LraBak>

Please note that grandparents and family friends are invited to come too.

I am aware that there has been some discussion on the parent social media groups about the decision to use public transport or walk to and from the swimming pool. This decision was made owing to a number of factors. Firstly, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint as the local bus takes almost the same route as the coach. This does mean that the children have to walk for an extra few minutes through the park to the bus stop. Secondly, owing to the government's policy of adding 20% VAT to school fees from January, we are looking for ways to absorb any extra costs as a school. This means that we are reviewing our expenditure and trying to make rational savings where we can without compromising the excellent education we provide. The cost of a coach is on average £260 per round trip or £3,120 per term per class. This is on top of the cost of hiring the pool and the swimming teachers. We do feel that this is a reasonable saving to make and the children who have been doing the journey this term have said that they are enjoying it.

As a school we are always trying to improve what we do and one area that came up for discussion in our parent forum was our club provision. There was general frustration about the need for us to cancel certain clubs but this was owing to the poor take up of places. In order to avoid this happening next term, we would like seek your views about clubs and find out which will be the most popular. <https://forms.office.com/e/ynRMt7Ba4a...>

Please do let me know directly if you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's education by emailing Mrs Clark and asking to make an appointment. It is much easier to deal with things swiftly then and I much prefer hearing from individual parents. Parent chat groups do tend to increase parent anxiety unnecessarily. I am always happy to listen.

We do have regular posts going out on our social media channels and it would be really helpful if you could share them with your friends. We are keen to put St James on the map and we need your help to do so. We have our first Reception 2025 assessment day next week and an Open Morning on November 6, if you know anyone who would like to come along.

I do hope that you have a restful and happy weekend.

Best wishes  
Mrs Wyatt