

# Learning together with courage and kindness

## 'For the good of all' 1 Corinthians 12



# St James News

Sept 1st 2023

### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Getting ready to come back to school
- Uniform & stationery
- Dates for your diary

Headteacher: Mrs Ottaway

Contact: [office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@stjamesce.vale-academy.org)

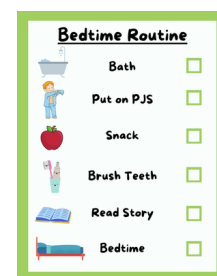
Telephone: 01235 868232

Dear St James Families,

As we all get excited about the new school year, we are finishing the final preparations so we all feel confident and ready. There is something wonderful about the return to school in September, with its promise of new challenges and relationships between children and their adults in school. Over the summer, staff have been busy setting up the school and planning for the new school year together. Our Inset days at the beginning of the week, enable us to share in high quality professional training. This year we will be focusing on behaviour for learning and the consistent use of the five teaching strategies recommended by the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation). We are very much looking forward to seeing you all!

### Getting back in a routine

Over the holidays we all get out of our routines, which can be very challenging for children when they come back to school. There are so many things for the children to take in at the beginning of a new school year and children need to feel well rested and secure in the rhythms of the day if they are to cope well with this. We ask that over the next few days, you try as far as possible to create structure and bedtimes again. It can also be helpful to involve your children in planning what routine for the new school year will look like - what time will they get up? Who will organise school clothes and breakfast? Where will book bags be stored? You could even work on a poster together and get children to decorate it so that everyone is working together, for a calm and confident start back to school!



## Morning Routine



## **Uniform & Stationary**

It is essential that the children look smart in school, so that we are learning to take pride in ourselves and what we do. Having had over a year of the new logo sweatshirt I would like all children to be wearing it by Term 3 (please speak to school if this is a cost problem).

- Navy blue sweatshirts/cardigans with logo - **required** (available from Wovina)
- Navy blue/white polo shirt - (polo shirt with logo is available but is not essential)
- Grey skirt, trousers or shorts - can be purchased anywhere
- Black/white socks
- Black shoes - **required**

Children are asked to come to school dressed in their PE kit on the appropriate days. (These will be shared by the teachers at the beginning of each short term)

- Plain navy or black shorts/ jogging bottoms - required
- Plain white T-shirt (an additional school polo shirt is suitable)
- Trainers for outdoor games/PE sessions - required
- Plain Navy blue hoodie - required (a version is available with logo but is not essential)
- Waterproof coat
- Wellies - essential for the field on wet days & going in the sandpit

**Please make sure sweatshirts, coats & Wellies are named.**

**Long hair needs to be tied up. No make up or false nails to be worn.**

I know how exciting getting new stationary is and sensibly sized pencil cases are encouraged in school. However other personal possessions should not be brought in including fiddle toys (unless agreed by SENCO) as these are often argued over and cause unnecessary disruption to learning. Jewelry is also discouraged in school, particularly on PE days. Parents of children who require a mobile phone for the end of the day must discuss this with their class teachers. School can take no responsibility for loss of damage.

## **Summer Reading Challenge**



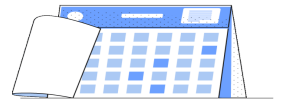
Remember any children who completed the Library Summer Reading Challenge we'd love to see your certificates at the beginning of the year to earn themselves a Headteacher's Award!



After another fantastic year of fund raising from our PTA, many of our members have decided they need to step back and support the school in other ways. This means it is vital we get lots of new members. If this is something you might be interested in please come to the Annual General Meeting on:  
3rd Oct 7pm

# Key Dates for the Diary

Sept/Oct 2023



**Wednesday 6th Sept:** Start of Autumn Term

**Thursday 7th Sept:** Welcome & new vision and curriculum sharing with SLT & Governors

**3rd Oct:** PTA AGM - new members needed

**WB 9th Oct:** Parent's Evenings

**Thursday 19th Oct:** End of Term

**Tuesday 31st Oct:** Start of Term 2