



17th July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

As we enter the final week of the academic year, I wish to thank you as parents and carers for giving your child and our school your full support throughout the academic year. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure your child receives the very best education and opportunities.

On Friday our Year 7 and 8 children visited Chester Zoo. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and really valued the opportunity to make memories with their peers taking in all that the Zoo has to offer. Our trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach takes place on Wednesday. I am sure this will be a lovely way to conclude our final full day of the academic year. If your child is participating, please see some further information from Mrs Pickles at the end of the letter.

We say goodbye to several staff this summer including Dr Nye and Mr Hall who are both relocating. Dr Nye has worked at St James' since 2003, an amazing achievement. Miss Foong, Miss Rowley and Miss Condron have gained promotion in other schools, Miss Maguire and Mrs Hanley are moving to other schools, and Miss Blake leaves us to begin her journey on her PGCE to become a teacher. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best for the future.

A reminder that Thursday 20th July is our final day and that school finishes at 12.15pm. The school buses have been ordered and will be onsite at this time ready to take children home for the summer holiday. We return to school on Wednesday 6th September for Year 7 only and all other Year groups return on Thursday 7th September. GCSE results day is 24th August and children can collect their results from 9am – 10.30am.

Our summer newsletter will be emailed out tomorrow. I would ask that you read all the information it contains, as it really does showcase what has gone on in each Year group and at a whole school level over the summer term. The newsletter also contains information about our charitable activities which have taken place throughout the year. As a sneak preview we have raised over £2800 for Mary's Meals and £208 for CAFOD. A huge congratulations to the children and a thank you to all our parents and carers for your support.

After careful consideration, due to rising food and energy costs, we are having to increase the cost of school meals from September by on average, 10%. The allowance for free school meals will also increase to £2.40 per main meal. We appreciate this is a difficult time for family finances, but we cannot continue to absorb these higher costs. If you feel that you may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office to arrange an eligibility check. Stockport Council are also extending their own school meal support scheme from September for Stockport residents who are in receipt of local council tax support and/or housing benefit. Uptake is very low and they encouraging parents/carers to apply. For further information please see here <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/sc-school-meal-support>. Stockport Council are also sending out vouchers for support over the summer holiday period to eligible families this week. Please see the poster at the bottom of this letter for further information.

Yesterday, the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah spoke about the power of God's Word and in the Gospel Jesus continues this message by telling us the powerful parable of the sower and the seed. The farmer sows his seed and according to where it fell and how it took root, some of it withered, died and produced no fruit. Other seed fell on rich, deep and fertile soil and produced a bumper crop. We know that through this parable



Jesus is describing himself as the sower and the seed as the Word of God. The soil into which the seeds are sown are our daily lives. At times the words that Jesus speaks to us literally fall on deaf ears. We hear very powerful and challenging words but perhaps because of fear, we are reluctant to let them take root in our lives. St. Paul wrote 'the word of God is alive and active'. Let us pray today that this word will take root in all of us and bear much fruit, fruit that will last.

I hope you have a lovely final week and a great summer spending time with your children, friends and family. Our staff will be doing the same and therefore will not be responding to emails until we return to school in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
17 th July	Paris Trip Careers Day	Paris Trip Careers Day	Paris Trip Careers Day	
18 th July	Paris Trip PE activities	Paris Trip Creative Technology activities	Paris Trip RE activities	
19 th July	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	Blackpool Trip Alternative activities in school	
20 th July	Spiritual reflection, assembly and Form time activities. School closes at 12.15pm			

Blackpool Pleasure Beach Visit

We are very much looking forward to our trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach this Wednesday and wish to ensure that the children are fully prepared. This information is being shared with children via their Form Tutor but I would appreciate parents and carers reinforcing these messages at home.

Coaches will begin departing from school at 8.50am and should arrive back by approximately



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

4.30pm. Children will be required to arrange an alternative way home, as school buses will not run at this time. Please do not park on the school site, as we will need access for the coaches.

Please also be aware that your child:

- Should wear suitable clothing and look at the weather forecast the night before. Be prepared for rain or sunshine (waterproofs, sunhat, sun cream etc)
- Should ensure their seat belt is worn at all times on the coach
- Is aware that eating is not permitted on the coach and please do not allow your child to bring any nuts due to allergies that some children may have
- Brings a packed lunch with plenty of drinks (those in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch)
- Brings a small amount of money to purchase snacks and souvenirs but please be aware that Blackpool is a cashless venue so if children wish to purchase items at the Pleasure Beach, they will need to upload cash to a prepaid card when they arrive
- Is aware that mobile phones and other valuables are brought at their own risk
- Must not leave Blackpool Pleasure Beach at any point during the day
- Will be provided with a wristband and these must be worn at all times, as well as carrying a ticket to give access to the rides
- Will be provided with an emergency number so that they can get in contact with a member of staff should they need to
- Is aware that an emergency situation such as a Terrorist attack is unlikely but they will need to be prepared so [this](#) video will be shown to the children

Please contact Mrs Pickles with any queries c.pickles@stjamesheadle.co.uk



Family Support Vouchers

Help for families with school-age children

As part of Stockport Council's delivery of the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund, vouchers are being issued to families with school-age children who receive income-based free school meals, those in early years with equivalent eligibility, and those households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support and/or Housing Benefit paid by Stockport Council.

Eligible families are receiving a **Family Support Voucher** worth **£97.50 per eligible child**, which can be redeemed at a Post Office®. The voucher is to help with the cost of household energy and other household essentials.

Be sure to check for your voucher:
Letter vouchers (if we don't have an email address) from **12 July 2023**
Email vouchers from **18 July 2023**

Don't miss out!
Redeem your
voucher at any Post
Office branch before
it expires

More information about your voucher can be found online at www.stockport.gov.uk/fsv

Need help getting online?
Call the DigiKnow Helpline on **07724 217888**.



Scan me for
more cost of
living
support and
information

