



18th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 15 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking all of you for your continued support of the school throughout this first term. This has been an extremely long term, but it seems to have raced by. Looking back over the last 15 weeks has been a pleasure and once again the St James' family have lived out our core Values. Our Autumn Term newsletter will be sent out to you this week and I ask that you read it, especially for your child's specific Year group. It really does highlight the fantastic school, children and staff we have.

Our Expressive Arts faculty are putting on our Christmas concert tomorrow. I am sure this will be a phenomenal performance. A huge thank you to all families and friends who are supporting the event. The performance will showcase the vast talents that lie within our Catholic school. The children and staff are rightly proud of their efforts, a big congratulations to all of those involved.

On 28th March 2022 the Government set out its White Paper which stated there was a new minimum expectation length of the school week of 32.5 hours for all mainstream, state-funded schools. This requirement must be implemented by 1st September 2024. In order to meet this minimum expectation, St James' is proposing to change the hours from 8.45am to 3pm to 8.40am to 3.10pm. This change will allow us to have a slightly longer lunchtime and slightly longer registration time. Should you have any comments about this change please email schoolday@stjamesheadle.co.uk. I will confirm any changes next term.

As we approach the culmination of the Advent season, I am filled with gratitude for the spirit of anticipation and reflection that has permeated our school during this sacred time. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, which takes place on, Christmas Eve, we find ourselves on the threshold of the joyous celebration of Christmas. This season has provided us with moments of quiet contemplation, fostering a sense of unity and purpose within our school community. May the lessons learned during Advent inspire us to embrace the true meaning of Christmas and continue to cultivate a spirit of kindness, empathy, and understanding throughout the year.

On Friday, school will finish at 12.15pm and the buses have been booked for this time. Our children will follow a different timetable which will afford them a reflection time with their Form Tutor and Head of Year, our annual Christmas quiz and finally a Form party.

I hope you have a fantastic holy Christmas and a very happy New Year when it comes. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break over Christmas period, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. A reminder school re-opens on 8th January, if you need anything in these final three days, please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher