



20th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 3 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I hope that the bank holiday afforded you the opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. I felt this weekend was an opportunity to give thanks for a life of service and dedication.

We have our Open Evening taking place on 22nd September, Thursday this week, and school will close at 1.15pm for our children. The school buses have been arranged to arrive at this earlier time. If your child is supporting either as a guide or within a Faculty area, please ensure that you have completed the consent link and that you have arranged to collect them from school **no later than 8pm**.

Last week we were awarded a gold STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club quality mark. The STEM Club Quality Mark is in recognition of the exceptional provision our school offers to young people by enriching the STEM curriculum. The STEM Club Quality Mark provides a framework for success assisting schools to identify and recognise the high calibre of extra-curricular provision provided by the school. Our STEM Club is a gateway to building enthusiasm for STEM subjects, increasing attainment and greater awareness of real-world context. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, in particular Mrs Cooper, as well as our children. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them.

On Friday Mr Kirrane retired from St James'. He was appointed as a teacher on 1st January 1981. Mr Kirrane has held numerous different positions including teacher, Head of Year and more recently technician. His length of service is testament to his desire to see young people succeed. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the children at St James' over the last 41 years. I am sure you will join me in wishing him an enjoyable, restful retirement and thank him for his dedicated service to our school.

Last week, some of our Year 11 Faith Prefects along with Mrs Pickles and Miss Hazlewood, had the opportunity to participate in a mini-Pilgrimage to the Relics of St Bernadette in Chester. It was in Lourdes, France in 1858 that Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette Soubirous, a young woman of just 14 who after these apparitions became a nun with the Sisters of Charity at the age of 20. The life and legacy of St Bernadette has touched the lives of people across the world and 164 years after the first pilgrimages begin, Lourdes is one of the busiest Christian pilgrimage sites in the world. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our own faith and to take inspiration from St Bernadette as we go about our daily lives "If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces... never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive... We can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always...". We can take comfort in this, knowing God is always by our side.

I hope you have a lovely week and if you need us, you know where we are
headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher