



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Autumn Term Week 5 Headteacher Update**

I cannot believe that we are already in October and that we only have three weeks left of this half term. We had another fantastic set of events in school last week for Year 7 with retreats to Savio. 7C have their Retreat taking place today. We are really looking forward to continuing their welcome with our Mass for our Year 7 on Thursday this week at Our Lady and the Apostles Church in Edgeley at 6pm. It is always a joyous occasion when we gather in faith as a school family.

Last week the children did a fantastic job with their baking for European Day of Languages. They managed to raise around £150 which is brilliant. It was fantastic to say the children's hard work pay off and there were lots and lots of cakes this year! All money raised from this sale is to go to Macmillan as part of the Macmillan coffee week, which our staff have also taken part in.

In these challenging economic times, I know how difficult it is for some families with the cost-of-living crisis and rising interest rates. I would encourage all families to read the Free School Meals section of our website to determine if your family could benefit from this. As we are a cashless school all monies are pre-loaded onto your child's fingerprint so there is no difference if they are in receipt of Free School Meals compared to children who are not. Please read the criteria carefully and if you think you qualify, please complete the link which can be accessed via the webpage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our School Business Manager Mrs Dooley [sbm@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:sbm@stjamesheadle.co.uk). The website can be accessed [here](#).

In the Gospel yesterday St Matthew is very short and to the point and poses the question; do we truly seek to do God's will in our lives? It challenges us to align our words and actions in ways that reflect our genuine commitment to God. We are presented with two examples: the one son who says that he will not work, but in the end does work and the other son who says he will work, but in the end does not. Neither son matches their words with actions. The old proverb "actions speak louder than words" comes to mind. Keeping our word is so important both in our family life and in our school environment. This week we need to ask ourselves do our words and actions demonstrate our commitment to the St James' family. Please speak to your child about the importance of supporting one another, in particular this week, through our words and actions.

Finally, can I remind all parents/carers to be considerate of our neighbours when you are parking. To ensure the safety of our children and the public please drive and park legally and safely. Parents/carers should not drive onto the school site between 2.40pm and 3.10pm due to the school buses.

Have a lovely week and if you need us, you know where we are [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher