

ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLDWALTHAM

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Enabling every child to thrive and succeed

Friday Flyer – Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be sharing the first Friday Flyer of this academic year with you. The Summer Holiday feels a distant memory and the children have settled brilliantly into their new class configurations with new teachers and friends. We welcome to our staff team Mrs Harris, who is currently covering Year 3/4 Elephants in Mrs Holt's absence, and Miss Brady who joins our team of support staff across all classes.

We also welcome our new Reception children to Penguin Class. They have impressed everyone with their happy, confident start to school – they have fitted into school life perfectly and are a wonderful asset to Team St James'.

Renewed School Vision

What a wonderful start to the school year we have had! In true British tradition, the weather was glorious on our return which was delightful in that it made coming back to school so much more bright and happy!

St. James' is proud to be part of the Arun Villages Federation with Amberley CE Primary School. As a Federation, we work together towards a shared vision of providing the best education possible for the children, but also preparing them socially, emotionally and mentally for the next step in their lives, whether that be the next year in primary school or moving on to secondary school. The years spent in primary school provide a foundation for children to build on and we endeavour to make this as strong as possible.

Moving into the new academic year, we have refreshed our Federation vision so that our children are educated, nurtured and prepared for the diverse and vibrant 21st-century society that they are part of. At Arun Villages Federation, we care for EVERYONE. We embrace challenges and all opportunities to learn, recognising the value of education and persevering even when it feels difficult. We are uncompromising in our aspirations, proud of our – and each other's - achievements and look forward to embracing the experiences the wider world offers.

Lizzie Martin Executive Headteacher, Arun Villages Federation



Class Flags

As part of our 'Learning to Learn' week from 4th – 7th September, each class designed and created a team flag. The theory behind this activity is explained in this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rx7w8tUZHE4>

Here is the flag from Team **Penguin**. The children printed the red with their fingers, drove cars through yellow paint and printed blue circles with duplo bricks. They then collaged the colours in between using their amazing cutting and sticking skills before cutting out their own penguin to skip across the rainbow.



Rhinos used Zentangle Art as the inspiration for their flag. Zentangle is a method for drawing which not only promotes concentration and creativity but at the same time increases personal well-being. The children chose their section and how they would decorate it before slotting all the pieces together to form one large Rhino. In Rhino Class,

we are all individuals but we join together to work as part of a team.

Elephants had a discussion about each of the school values and what attributes each person needs to bring in order to be part of a good team. Each child chose their own individual word for their unique section of the flag and were given a square to represent their chosen word. It was up to each Elephant to choose how they would decorate their piece and, I think you'll agree, the combination of all their hard work is fantastic.



Jaguar Class flag is inspired by the ancient tradition of Tibetan prayer flags. We looked at the values represented by the animals on Tibetan flags and reflected on how we might represent our school values. We also considered what a Jaguar might represent. The children then created these amazing individual pennants, which together create our team flag. Tibetan prayer flags are often hung over paths in order to bless those who walk beneath them, we are hoping ours brings us good fortune this year!



"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Class Dojo

By the time this flyer is sent, all parents and carers should have been invited to join the Class Dojo community. If there are any additional parents that would like to be connected, please message your child's teacher.



Class Dojo has previously been used in EYFS and KS1 to reward positive behaviour with Dojo Points. We have now embraced the platform school wide and hope that you will enjoy seeing snippets of learning and news on the School Story and updates pertinent to your child on the Class Story.

As with all new systems, there may be some teething troubles to iron out – please feedback to staff as your opinion is invaluable. We are confident that this will be a very positive tool to maintain excellent communication between home and school.

Meet the Teacher

All parents and carers are invited to visit their child's classroom for a Meet the Teacher event to aid the settling in process and find out more about your child's learning.

Parents are invited into school on the following dates/times;

Monday 18th September 2.45 - 3.15pm Jaguars

Tuesday 19th September 2.30 - 3.15pm Penguins, Rhinos and Elephants

If you have children in more than one class, please manage your visit so that all classes have been visited on Tuesday 19th September by 3.15pm. School will finish as usual at 3.15pm and any children whose parents cannot attend will be dismissed as usual from the playground. If you are unable to attend, all information will be shared via class email and you will have the opportunity to meet teachers at a face-to-face Parent Consultation on 31st October or 2nd November.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

Please remember that we are a nut free school. Please do not send nuts or items derived from nuts in your child's packed lunch. This includes Battenberg cake, almond croissants, cereal bars containing nuts and chocolate spread.

Packed lunches may contain items from the supermarket biscuit aisle; items from the sweet aisle are not appropriate for school packed lunches.

All the children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are provided with a free fresh fruit/vegetable snack at breaktime. If your child brings a snack from home to eat at breaktime, this should be a fruit/vegetable snack or rice cakes/breadsticks.

School Lunch Orders Using ParentPay

All children who are in Reception, Year 1 and 2 receive "Universal Free School Meals"; therefore meals are provided without charge, but they must be ordered in advance on ParentPay. If your child is in Years 3-6, hot meals can be ordered and paid for on ParentPay. If a meal is not ordered for your child by the deadline, please provide a packed lunch as food will not be supplied by Chartwells. Do not hesitate to telephone the office if any assistance is required to order meals.



Thursday 21 st September 2023	Orders should be made on Parentpay by this date for all children who require a hot meal during the week starting Monday 2 nd October.
Thursday 28 th September 2023	Orders should be made on ParentPay by this date for all children who require a hot lunch during the week starting Monday 9 th October.

St James' School on Facebook



Did you know that we are on Facebook? Our page is called "Coldwaltham St James Primary School" and we would really like parents and carers to like, comment and share our posts so we can get the word out about our fantastic school. Thank you.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing the children bright and early on Monday morning.

Kind regards

Natalie Douse
Senior Teacher



Dates for the Diary

Monday 18 th September 2023	Meet the Teacher 2.45 to 3.15pm - Jaguars
Tuesday 19 th September 2023	Meet the Teacher 2.30 to 3.15pm - Penguins, Rhinos and Elephants
Wednesday 11 th October 2023	Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.30 to 11.00am
Thursday 19 th October 2023	Harvest Festival in the school hall 9.00am. All parents and carers welcome.
23 rd to 27 th October 2023	Half Term
Monday 30 th October 2023	InSET Day - School closed to children on this day
Tuesday 31 st October and Thursday 2 nd November	Parent Consultation Afternoon - further details to follow
Friday 17 th November 2023	Children in Need Day - further details to follow
Monday 4 th December 2023	Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance 6.00pm - further details to follow
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	Key Stage 2 Nativity Performance 2.00pm - further details to follow
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Wear Something Festive Day and Chartwells Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Christingle Service at St Giles' Church - further information to follow
Friday 15 th December 2023	Last Day of Term



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***For more information please contact
Sharon.aldred@compass-group.co.uk***

