



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce a new initiative taking place at TGPASJ. Mrs Luckhurst has taken on the role of 'Eco-Schools Coordinator' and will be helping us achieve a quality mark demonstrating our commitment to the environment. As part of this, Mrs Luckhurst has set up an Eco-Council. This group of pupils from Reception to Year 6 will support with projects around school during the school year and lead the peers in work to support environmentally friendly choices. I look forward to sharing the work of the Eco-Council with you during the course of the school year.

What have we already done? Over the course of the last 12 months, all of the lighting in school has been changed to LED in order to be more energy efficient. Changes have been made to our computer network to ensure that all PCs on our school site switch off at 6pm in the evening to make sure that electricity is not wasted during times there is no one on site. We are working with Tudor Grange Academies Trust to make more small changes, and change habits, to do what we can to become a more environmentally friendly school and trust.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lynch  
Principal

## Weekly Bulletin

*Through the Parent Bulletin, we seek to send out as much information as we can via only one document each week. There may be occasional additional emails where information needs to be sent out quickly, but we always try to keep this to a minimum. We hope this helps parents and families to keep track of what is happening in school without having to trawl through dozens of emails! At the end of each bulletin, you will find upcoming diary dates of note.*

## PTA Updates

### Halloween Disco - 8<sup>th</sup> November

- Please see the poster with more details for the Halloween disco [here](#).
- We have decided on the following ticket prices to ease the cost for parents of multiple children at the school: first child £4, sibling £3, second sibling £2, third sibling £1.
- Please send ticket purchases to the following account with your child's name as reference. Those parents paying for multiple children, please use surname and then email [pta@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:pta@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk) with the children's names and year groups.
  - Account name: St James School Parent Teacher Association

Sort code: 60-19-14

Account no: 05943078

- We are hosting a zoom meeting with parents this evening (12<sup>th</sup> October) to discuss plans for the Christmas Fair. As always, all parents are very welcome to join – please see the link below:

**Topic: PTA - Christmas Fair plans**

**Time: Oct 12, 2023 08:00 PM London**

**Join Zoom**

**Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2494237384?pwd=QWxhU3NJMU9rYUZoazNBNjcwbDhtUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 249 423 7384**

**Passcode: PTA2023**

- A reminder that the next Bag2School date will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October - please see the poster for more details [here](#).
- Parents wishing to purchase pre-loved uniform can email the PTA and leave a donation of their choice in a sealed envelope with the school office. We are also accepting donations of pre-loved uniform (school-branded items only please.) Please see the up-to-date inventory of available items [here](#).

**All correspondence for the PTA should be sent to [pta@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:pta@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk)**

## School Lunches

We are having an increasing number of parents regularly dropping off lunches into school. Whilst we appreciate that on the odd occasion lunch boxes are accidentally forgotten, this should not be a regular occurrence.

The office staff are having to frequently leave their positions and interrupt lessons to take lunch down to classrooms. This is not an effective use of their time and also impacts on classroom learning. During registration at 8.40am, children make their choices regarding lunch and if they have no packed lunch from home, a school lunch will be ordered and parents will be charged for this. We would also like to remind parents that we encourage children to make healthy food choices.



Please see the following link regarding healthy lunchboxes - [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Holiday HAF Camps

The Solihull HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme is funded by government and aims to offer a healthy meal and enriching activities for children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (FSM), during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays. Many camps will also run during half term. These are free of charge to the parent/carer of eligible children with a maximum number of sessions that can be booked per child per holiday period. Please click [here](#) to access the council webpage for a full list of available clubs and booking information.

## MCAS Online Payments

We are pleased to inform you that the payment issue with MCAS as now been resolved. If you do encounter any further issues, please get in touch with the office.

## Edupod Mental Health Project

Mrs Causon (SENCO and Designated Mental Health Lead) is leading the school in an Edupod 'Mental Health Project'. Part of this project involves gathering staff, pupil and parent voice. Please click on the following link to complete the survey, your participation will be very helpful to our action planning: [complete survey here](#).

## Eat Well Move More Programme- SMBC

This is a family based healthy lifestyles programme, tailored to individual needs. They run free 8 week family based healthy lifestyle community programmes after school, during term times and also operate a one to one programme service offer. Please click [here](#) for more information or visit their website: [www.solihullonthemove.co.uk](http://www.solihullonthemove.co.uk).

## Free Cycle Training Sessions- SMBC

Bike It Solihull are offering free 'Get Pedalling' sessions to help children to learn to ride a bike or improve their cycle skills and confidence. Sessions are available for children aged 4-11 years. Click [here](#) for more information and to book sessions.

## Upcoming Diary Dates

**Did you know?** You can sync our school calendar with the calendar on your phone, so you always have the most up to date calendar information. Click [here](#) to go the calendar page on our website, click on the button at the bottom of the page that says 'Subscribe to Calendar' and select which of your own calendars you wish to sync it with.

When?	What?	Who?
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Residential Visit	Y6
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Nasal Flu Immunisations	R- Y5 (Y6 date to be set)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photograph Day	Whole school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening – On Site	N-Y6 (Bookings open on Monday at 6pm)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November		Half Term

'Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Do everything in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

