



The Academy at
St James
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

St James PE Newsletter

February 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Exciting news surrounding all things PE, Physical Activity & Outdoor Learning!

As a school we are absolutely committed to placing physical activity and emotional health and wellbeing at the heart of school life. On behalf of all the staff at the Academy at St James, we would like to share just some of the incredibly exciting opportunities and initiatives our pupils will be experiencing this year.



We are a JUMP school!

We are proud to say we are a JUMP school! 'Join Us Move and Play' is social movement backed by Sport England in order to listen to the needs of the local community to enable its children and families to access high quality and enjoyable physical activity based opportunities. Later this month we will be opening our doors to provide a JUMP fun day for all of our families to attend, this will include lots of fun physical challenges and pupil prizes! Please keep a look out for this on our next school newsletter.



Forest School: Outdoor Learning

Recently we have launched our new Forest school offer. This provision will allow for pupils across all age ranges within our school to access alternative learning opportunities in our beautiful outdoor setting. Pupils will take part in learning opportunities such as; practical tool use, fire lighting, cooking, shelter building, woodland art and exploring the natural world. This will be a wonderful experience for our pupils who we hope will get a real sense of adventure while experiencing the awe and wonder of nature.

We are a Nature friendly school

Due to our commitment to outdoor learning and pupil health and wellbeing, we have successfully applied for 'Nature friendly school's status'. We will be receiving support from the woodland trust and field studies council to educate our pupils surrounding our green space and the wildlife within it. We will also be receiving funding and expert advice on how to develop our nature reserve, staff training and opportunities for local educational visits to places of natural beauty. We are delighted to be involved and are looking forward to working in partnership with the Nature Friendly Schools Project.



School Games sporting competitions

Competitions will continue as usual throughout the year. Pupils will be selected to take part and represent The Academy at St James in a wide range of sports and physical challenges. After school clubs have also been relaunched, so please get your children's names down if they would like to attend, we still have places available. We have also recently launched a weekly PE, physical activity and health award for pupils who have displayed superb effort and attitude during lessons and sessions. This award is in line with our school core values.



Yorkshire PE Centre of excellence status application 2019/20.

Shortly we will be applying for the above status. This is something we are absolutely passionate about and believe that it is important to share and celebrate our commitment and achievements surrounding PE. In order to achieve this status, our school will be subject to a rigorous application process. If successful, we will be hosting training events for other schools to come along and share best practice. Please keep your fingers crossed for us! We will be updating parents/carers on our success in the coming weeks.



Martial Arts offer at the Academy at St James.

We believe that physical education can make a significant contribution to SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural) education. As such, we have committed to using additional funding to enable every child in year 5 to access Jujitsu lessons. This will be delivered by a Sensei Mumtaz Khan from Onna Jujitsu club. Lessons will culminate with a grading ceremony at white belt allowing parents and carers to attend and celebrate 45 pupils achievements. Please keep a look out for further updates!



Onna Ju-Jitsu Club



Be sure to keep up to date with our weekly social media updates celebrating all things PE, physical activity and outdoor learning

Twitter: @PEchurchprim1

PE kit expectations

Finally, please could you help us to ensure your child brings a full PE kit to school in preparation for lessons, clubs, competitions and wider opportunities. We are very proud of our commitment to being active and firmly believe that having an appropriate kit is a good habit in terms of supporting our pupil's attitude, health and hygiene. Kits should include black jogging bottoms and hoody, light blue t-shirt and pumps or trainers where possible.



It is a very exciting time for PE, physical activity and outdoor learning at The Academy at St James. It is our hope that we will become a beacon of health and wellbeing not just for our pupils but the wider community also.

As always thank you for ongoing support,

Mr N O'Brien
(Physical Education)

**Aspire to do our best
Achieve our dreams
Believe in ourselves**