



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We had a wonderful first half term at school with so many fantastic opportunities for the children. This next half term promises to be a busy one in the build up to Christmas. We are delighted we can hold our Firework display this year and hopefully many of our Christmas events as Advent begins.

### School values:

Our core value this half term is Peace. Some of the key questions we will be looking at are:

1. What is peace and how we create peaceful communities?
2. How do all faiths promote peace?

We have worked hard on our school values over the last few months which are: community, peace, respect, forgiveness, Courage and Trust. We will be focusing in on Peace in the lead up to Christmas.

Autumn 1	Community
Autumn 2	Peace
Spring 1	Respect
Spring 2	Forgiveness
Summer 1	Courage
Summer 2	Trust

### Harvest:

This year we collected lots of food for different community groups and donated this to:

1. Lower Grange Community Centre
2. Thornton Church
3. Café West

It was wonderful to see the donations go out into the community and for different groups of children to see the impact that this has on the place in which they live.



### 5 Ways of Being:

We have launched our 5 ways of being this half term which are:

1. Show you care
2. Always be yourself
3. Be a confident communicator
4. Contribute to your community
5. Be a knowledge and expert learner

Every half term the class teacher will choose 4 or 5 pupils who have shown one of those key things and they will be rewarded with a 'fun' afternoon. Last half term the focus was on 'show you care' and those children will get to have a circus skills afternoon.



### Reminders

- **Black school shoes must be worn in school**
- **All pupils in KS2 are expected to wear a tie.**
- All pupils should be wearing a blue t-shirt with black shorts and pumps.
- For outdoor P.E children will need trainers and in colder weather black or grey jogging bottoms and a plain jumper.
- **No** ball games must be played before school of any kind.

### The School Gate:

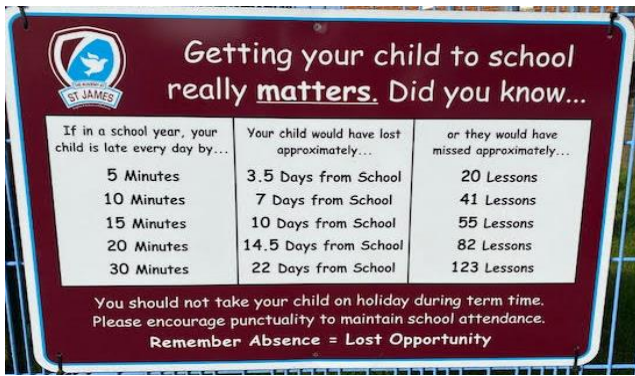
Please remember that if you are picking your child up from school or dropping them off at breakfast club you must park outside the school gates for safeguarding reasons.



### Attendance

Our attendance since the start of term is 93.1% which is not as high as normal. Mrs Albentosa will be sending out attendance letters this week. It is even more important than ever that your children come to school as often as they can given how much school has been missed. As you can see below the effect on your child's learning can be huge. For example if their attendance is 90% they would have missed **19 days of school** which is

the same as **100 lessons**. For 100% attendance for the half term we are giving away **3 Amazon Fire Kindles!**



### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has places and we are still offering free bagels in a morning. It is £2 a day and starts at 7.30am. This cost covers the childcare as the food is free.

### Curriculum:

What an amazing term it has been. We have had so many exciting things which have included:

### Design Technology:

We have had the pleasure of having Hepp DT in school every Monday teaching DT to different year groups. He has taught Year 1 and 2 for 3 weeks and now has just finished teaching Year 3 and 4 with some wonderful results!



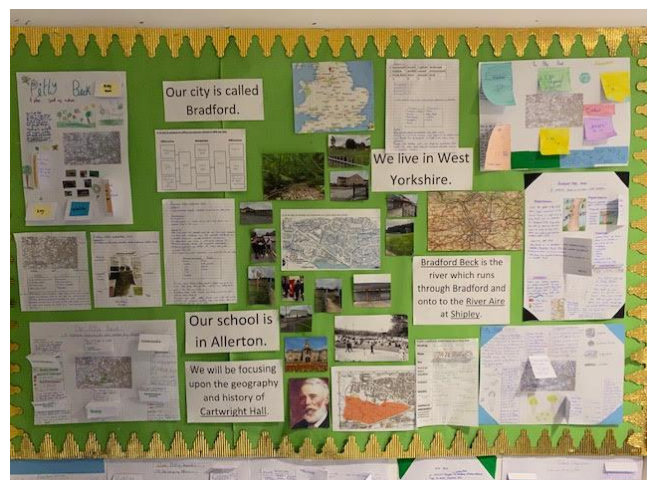
### Music:

All our Key Stage 2 children are now taught music every week by Helen Varley. Our KS1 pupils are learning about rhyme and rhythm through Samba taught by our volunteer ( Mrs Rosenberg who is Miss Rosenberg's mum). We have also started our band 'Academy Blast' and they will be performing in the run up to Christmas.



### Geography

The whole school has taken part in a local area study around Allerton, Thornton and Haworth. We have been looking at where we live, why it is important and the features of different places near our house. Here is some of the work:





### **Community Events:**

We held the annual McMillan Coffee Morning in September and we also held our spooky ball which was well attended and enjoyed by so many children.



We also have our Firework display and Christmas Extravaganza coming up in Autumn 2 and we hope you can join us.

### **Nell Bank**

Our Year 4 pupils went to Nell Bank and had a great time. They walked 8 miles, problem solved and collaborated really well. We were very proud of them and they used lots of Geography skills too. Thank you to all the team who took them- you made every moment count.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	Hook Day- start of term and welcome back to school
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Community Fireworks 5.00pm-6.30pm
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	School photographs -all day
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Remembrance Day (Service in school at 9.40am)
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November-Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week "One Kind Word" Activities will happen all week.
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Fluoride Varnishing-Nursery, Reception and Year 1
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Dr Bike – visiting to mend pupils bikes (40) All day See Mr O'Brien for details
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Children in Need- non-uniform
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Tony Bullock Art morning – Year 5 and 6
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.00pm
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	KS2 Sports Challenge-Panatholon
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	St Andrews Day
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Christmas launch event- Decorate classrooms 1.00pm-3.00pm
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ladyhill Park Christmas Grotto-KS1 9-11.30
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Pantomime 1.30pm-3.00pm
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christingle service Hall- 9.40am Whole School
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 nativity for parents 2.00pm-3.00 pm
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 nativity for whole school 10.00am-11.00am
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 carol concert at Thornton Church 2.00pm-2.30pm Parents welcome
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Dinner
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	EYFS Nativity Whole School 10.00am-11.00am

<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	EYFS Nativity Parents 2.00pm-3.00pm
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Party Day 10.30am-12.00am
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas in the hall Each class sings a song Star of the week/Golden Learner/Attendance/ 5 ways of being 1.30-3.00
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School closes for Christmas
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Extravaganza 8.00am-1.00pm
<b>Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	School reopens

We have also been involved in a number of other projects this term a big thank you to **Café West, Lowergrange community centre, Participate and BT Education** for all our visits to LadyHill Park. **Dave Morrison- you have been fantastic!**



### **VOLUNTEERS**

*Thank you to all the parents who volunteered this half term. If you would like to support the school get in touch with Mrs Albentosa and she can give you the details.*

### **Keep In Touch!**

Please keep looking at our website for updates and information.

<http://academystjames.com/>

Thank you for all your support and help last half term- your children are fantastic!

Best wishes  
Mr C Tolson  
(Headteacher)

**PS Here are some other photos which show case the amazing experiences your children are getting.**



**Our outdoor education programme is going very well and the Forest Schools sessions are a pure joy to watch!**

