Dear Parents and Carers,

We are only 3 weeks into the term and already so much has been happening. The children have had a multitude of opportunities to seize and some wonderful experiences to enhance their understanding of the world around them. Our Year 5 children have recently returned from a week in the Brecon Beacons where they experienced mountain climbing, caving, canoeing and gorge walking amongst other exciting activities. I do hope that you enjoyed seeing some of the photos that we posted of them on the school twitter feed (@sjcprimary).

This term we are re-starting our link with the Mini police. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will each participate in 3 workshops where they learn about fraud and hopefully how not to become victims of fraud. They may come home and tell you ‘if it looks too good to be true then it is too good to be true!’

Coming up over the next few weeks we will be enhancing our curriculum by having an RE day in school and later in the term will have a science day. Also in the pipeline is another author visit; however dates are yet to be confirmed.

Miss A Allan

Celebrating New Life

We had a delivery of 10 hens eggs to the Reception classroom a fortnight ago. The children were given instructions about what to do with the eggs and how to keep a close eye on them. After a day or so, the children noticed that some of the eggs were moving and when they listened really carefully, they could even hear noise coming from inside the egg. The class were lucky enough to be able to observe some of the eggs hatching and have taken very good care of the new chicks that have been born. Today they have been collected by the farmer to go and have a bit more space to run around in.

Yesterday Mr Pogson braved the London traffic to drive 3 special visitors into school - 3 lambs. When not at school or playing hockey, Mr Pogson is actually a farmer (a very confusing idea for some of the children to get to grips with). The lambs spent time with all of the children and even watched a game of dodgeball in the gym while it was raining. One of the children said is was the best thing they’ve ever experienced!

Thank you to the City of London

As you will be aware, The City of London decided to trial funding school lunches for all children in Key Stage 2 this year. All parents and carers who had paid for lunches in advance have now been reimbursed—thank you for your patience while this was sorted out. The excellent news is that The City have decided to continue this funding for the next academic year. This means that children from Reception to Year 6 will all receive a school lunch for free - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 through government funding and Years 3 to 6 through City funding.

Statutory Assessments in Years 2 and 6

Our Year 6 children will be undertaking their Year 6 SATs tests next week. They have worked incredibly hard for them and we wish them the very best of luck. Information about the assessments can be found on the school website.

Year 2 children also undertake assessments, however these are...
...carried out in a much less formal way. There is no formal time restriction for the papers and there is flexibility over the days that the papers are carried out. Children in Year 2 have been carrying out assessments in similar formats throughout the year so these papers won’t be unusual or out of the ordinary to them. If you would like any further information regarding the assessments, please look on the school website.

Dates

You will all have received a letter with provisional dates for the rest of the summer term. As stated on the letter, more information regarding events will be given closer to the time and you will be informed of any alterations or additions. See below for amendments:

**Beating of the Bounds** - the event has been postponed from 23rd May. We will send a letter to Year 4 parents when we have a confirmed new date.

**Year 3 strings showcase** - Wednesday 19th June at 9:10am. This event will last approximately 30 minutes

**Year 4 Bach to school concert** - Friday 14th June. Children will be attending this short concert in Bermondsey during the school day.

**Parent Meeting**—Ensuring your child’s wellbeing and supporting their resilience! All parents and carers are invited to come along and hear from an authority on the matter. The session will take place in the hall at 9am on Thursday 16th May.

**Clubs**

We have been fortunate to have been able to secure an additional club to take place this term. The science club is being run by MACE, the construction company, alongside the school. As we have only been able to confirm the club at the beginning of the week we have had a very quick turnaround in allocating places.

When allocating places in clubs, we take into account what commitments children have already made in school as well as the order that responses are returned to us. For example, if a child has committed to attending netball for the term then the expectation is that the child will continue to attend the club for the allocated period of time. This is part of the initial agreement for all clubs. If children drop out of clubs, it has an impact on the affordability of running the club and the viability of the club taking place. As well as this, we want as many children as possible to have the opportunity to participate in our extra curricular activities.

We do understand that some children may be disappointed that they are not allocated a place in a club the first time they apply to join, however we thank you for supporting us in recognising that we are not always able to fulfil every child’s wish and have to take a number of factors into account when making decisions.

**Late Collection From School**

For the majority of parents and carers for the majority of the time, dropping off and collecting children on time is relatively straightforward and problem free. We do recognise however that on occasion, emergencies happen or the transport system fails us which means that children are either late to school or cannot be picked up at collection time.

We ask that if something has happened and you are going to be late to collect your child that you let the school know. If you are late for non emergency related reasons, you may be liable to pay a late collection charge. This fee was set in the 2017 charging and remissions policy, which can be found on the school website. The fee is £10.00 per 15 minutes. Repeated late collection may result in children no longer being able to access the extended services on offer in the school.

In the event that we don’t hear from you and are unable to contact any of the designated emergency contacts by 6:30pm, we have a duty to call children’s social care in order to make arrangements for overnight care. This is obviously a situation we don’t ever want to be in so ask that you communicate with us regularly and ensure that all contact details that the school holds are up to date.

Faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13