

## Dear parents and carers,

## It's great to be back!

Welcome to a brand new year at St Clement and St James. We are looking forward to our new school year with great excitement and optimism for the future.

We are delighted to welcome our new teachers who have very much enjoyed their first couple of days getting to know our lovely children:

Year 1 (Avocet class) - Celia Kelly (Ms Pelly is now married and her name has changed a little)

**Year 2** (Starling class) – Louise Wilson (Deputy Head Teacher) and Agnieszka Dunkley

Year 3 (Heron class) - Jessica Richardson

Year 4 (Raven class) – Susanne Gerer

Year 5 (Lark class) - Philippa Bourne

Year 6 (Kingfisher class) - Megan Prideaux Early Years (Owlets) - Anna Moran and Emma George Nurture area (The Nest) - SEN and therapies will be based in this area

## Why are the classes named after birds?

Now we are sprucing up the building and relocating classrooms we thought it would be good to give them brand new names. We chose British birds because they represent flight and symbolise high aspirations and freedom. In addition, we want children to be more aware of the world around them and how we help to conserve these beautiful creatures.

Have you seen the new building work?

We have made lots of improvements over the holidays. The hall has had a makeover and has a new projector and huge screen. The nest area has been partitioned and redecorated so there are more spaces for one to one support and Mrs Stephens has a new, more private office. The children's coat pegs have been moved so they are more easily accessible. However, the most impressive transformation is the new early years Owlets centre – it's huge and includes a kitchen and new toilets as well as smart new rooms. *Please come and have a look on Monday and Tuesday afternoon when the school will be open for you to view.* 

You will also be able to visit the new Pottery Lane Arts Centre (PLACE) at the same time so please make sure you pop into the pottery studio along with our artists and weavers. THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE DAY —IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION with effect fromMonday 9th September 2019:MORNING:GATES OPEN AT 8:45AMAFTERNOON:GATES OPEN AT 3:20PM

We've been thinking carefully about how to ensure children have a safe, calm start to the day. We are going to have a 'soft start' in the morning which means that children will not need to wait in the playground but go straight up to their classes as they arrive. (This will avoid lining up and some of the stress that can arise from this.) The children's teachers will be waiting for them in the classroom with a warm welcome and learning ready to complete.

We are keen to build strong relationships between staff and parents and recognise this is key. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher you can do this in the playground at the end of the day or if this is not convenient we can chat on the phone or make an appointment with the school office.

#### Please Note: Mobile Phones

With immediate effect mobile phones are no longer permitted in school. If children are found with a mobile phone, it will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to collect it from the school office. Please note that this is common practice in all primary schools in Kensington & Chelsea. We will be writing to all Year 6 parents.

#### School Meals:

The cost is  $\pounds 2.50$  per day. We are a cashless office so please ensure that you have downloaded the SchoolGateway app to pay for meals online and in advance. School meals are free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. If you would like to switch from packed lunches to school meals please see Lisa and give at least **1 weeks notice** of the change.



With warmest wishes from Ellie and Sarah

## COMPASSION ~ CREATIVITY ~ FORGIVENESS ~ THANKFULNESS ~ FRIENDSHIP ~ EXCELLENCE

## What have the staff been doing at the end of the holiday?

At the beginning of the week we held three training days, one with our sister school, St Thomas', looking at children's well-being and safeguarding. There was another day on the curriculum, and one wonderful day where we created a map for St Clement and St James with our plans for the future. The day was facilitated by an artist and a psychologist who helped us to think about our history and our future but the most amazing thing was how much they helped us to bond as a group.



You can see the map in the hall and you will see it has the words **'I'm in'** at the centre, which is something staff repeated many times.

We hope you agree with our vision and hope 'you're in' too:

- Happy, calm, children who are inquisitive and love learning
- Older children looking out for younger children
- A family
- A place where everyone can grow (we thought about gardens)
- We offer more than great English and maths teaching; we have fantastic arts and PE
- Proud children who have confidence in their talents

#### **School Uniform**

It's important to look smart, neat and tidy. If you look good you have a good attitude too! If your child is in Reception to Y6, please make sure that he or she wears school uniform:

#### Black shoes

**Green** cardigan/jumper with school logo (no designer logos or grey cardigans or jumpers).

Optional outerwear - SCSJ sweatshirt or anorak. *Please* note teachers may ask children to remove these items of clothing in class as they are really intended for wearing outside. Sometimes children become very hot but may not be aware of this as they are unable to regulate their body temperatures until they are older. Nursery and Reception: Yellow polo shirt with school logo

Y1-Y6 White shirt/school tie Grey trousers/shorts Grey skirts or pinafores Green and white check summer dress **Black shoes**, no trainers or boots

**Earrings** – only tiny studs (smaller than a pea), no sleepers or hoops

Hair – no shaved patterns in hair or mini-mohicans. Scarves & hair ties in green with no patterns.

# **Dates for your diary**

Don't forget

Year 3: Swimming starts Tuesday 10 September 2.30pm (Please return the permission slip coming home today)

Early Years Owlet Centre opens Mon 16 September (Please check the letter sent to you for your child's exact start date)

Wed 18 Sept - 9am and repeated at 3.30pm Secondary transfer meeting for Year 6 parents in the Year 6 classroom.

Fri 4 Oct - 9:30 coffee morning for new parents

Mon 21 to Fri 25 Oct - HALF TERM BREAK

The newsletter is always available on the school website: <u>www.scsj.rbkc.sch.uk</u>