



St. James'
CE First School

Headteacher: Mr D Lawford

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Dear Parents and Carers

Just three simple updates and reminders this week around attendance, behaviour and social-media.

Attendance Update

Over the last few days, the office team have sent out our latest round of automated attendance updates to most parents. As a reminder, we are targeting a whole school attendance above 96%. Last term, our collective attendance was 91.72% which places us in the bottom half of primary schools across the country. Typically, whole school attendance has not been an issue at St James' and I am fully aware of the various winter and viral bugs that went through most classes. However, can I encourage you to always prioritise getting your children in to school. So far, Spring 1 attendance has started much more positively and is currently sitting at 95.35% but there is still room for improvement.

Expectations for Behaviour After-School

In recent weeks, a number of parents have voiced a few concerns around behaviour of children on school grounds after-school. Whether this might have been disagreements over a game or witnessing unsafe behaviour, for example, climbing trees. We will talk to the children in school, but it is our expectation that all children follow the same behaviour expectations as if they are on break or lunch during school time. If you are staying after-school to play, and I really love it that you do, please can I ask that you always have an eye out for your children and help to maintain both safe and appropriate behaviour.

Use of Social Media

Can I remind all parents that social media should not be used as a vehicle to express concerns about the school or any member of the community. If you have a concern about your child, please come and see me and we can address your concerns directly. I will always challenge untruths, malicious comments and posts that bring the school into disrepute. Social Media is not the platform for this and it does not demonstrate how we want our children to use the platform. Our [E-Safety Policy](#) governs all aspects of technology use but sections 9.4 and 9.5 give a more thorough explanation.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. You are all valued members of the community and do so much to make St James' special.

Yours faithfully

Mr Lawford
Headteacher

Believe & Achieve "I will show you my faith by my deeds" James 2:18

Love | Hope | Truth

