

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to St. James' Junior School!

I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed some time together. It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school this week, and I have been incredibly impressed by the positive mindset they have brought with them. The children have returned ready to learn, work hard and achieve their potential. There is a real sense of excitement around school, and I am looking forward to what promises to be a fantastic academic year.

We have lots of exciting things coming up over the next few weeks, so please keep an eye out for our weekly newsletter every Friday, which will keep you up to date with everything happening across school. Please make sure that your family is signed up to ClassDojo. This is the best way for us to communicate with you about important school information, messages and updates. We also ask that all families download the Arbor app. Arbor is where you can book trips and after-school clubs, pay for school dinners and access lots of other useful school services.

If you have any difficulties accessing either ClassDojo or Arbor, please speak to the School Office and we will be happy to help.

Next week, we are very excited to introduce Coaching Circles across school. Three times each week, children will meet together in their circle. Each circle will include children from different year groups alongside a member of staff. Coaching Circles are about belonging, relationships, confidence and helping every child to thrive. They will give children the opportunity to get to know children from different year groups, develop positive relationships with adults and peers, talk about things that matter to them and support one another. We want every child to have an adult in school who knows them well, listens to them and champions them. Most importantly, Coaching Circles will be fun! There will be games, challenges, discussions and plenty of opportunities for children to laugh, share ideas and get to know one another. We are really looking forward to seeing these circles develop and become an important part of life at St. James'.

A reminder that our school uniform is:

- Navy blue jumper or cardigan – this does not have to have the school logo
- White polo shirt or white shirt
- Black or grey trousers or skirt
- Black school shoes

Please note that white or coloured trainers are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn to school.



On PE days, children can come to school wearing their PE kit:

- Their coloured #TeamStJames T-shirt
- Black or navy shorts or joggers
- Trainers

For outdoor PE, children can also wear a hoodie. St. James' hoodies are available to order through Arbor, although they are not compulsory.

Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain high standards and ensuring that children arrive ready for the school day.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be holding our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. These will be a great opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, find out more about what your child will be learning this year and ask any questions you may have. We will share further information about the dates and arrangements shortly.

I will be on the school gate every morning before school and every evening after school, so please feel free to come and say hello, have a chat or ask me anything. Our School Office is also open from 8am until 4pm and the team will be happy to help with any questions or queries.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our school and our community, and I am excited about everything we can achieve together this year. I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Walls
Headteacher



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St James' CofE Junior School is part of the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust family of schools (DDAT, company number 8980079).
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