



Where Pupils Achieve and Excel
Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

TP/JP

14 September 2022

Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome back to the 2022/23 academic year. Our pupils have received a very warm welcome back and we have taken the opportunity to remind them of our core values – Respectfulness, Resilience, and Readiness, the 3 Rs. We want our pupils to be respectful of each other and themselves as well as the wider community of which they are part. We want our pupils to challenge themselves, not to give up at the first hurdle and to demonstrate perseverance. Our pupils should also be ready to learn, ready to take responsibility and ready to succeed. Our staff will be reinforcing these messages in lessons and pupils can earn house points by demonstrating these crucial qualities.

Respectful

Our new Year 5 cohort are absolutely wonderful! I would like to thank you and their first schools for shaping such wonderful young people and for giving us the privilege to continue that journey with us. I am already very impressed with them. Of course, we have welcomed pupils into other year groups who are equally wonderful, and I am proud to say that all pupils have got off to a great start. It has been lovely to welcome them all back. I am particularly proud of our Year 8 Prefects, who will soon be sporting their prefect ties, as they step up to their new roles.

Looking after our environment is something we take very seriously here at James Bateman Middle School. We have had four classrooms refurbished, decorated and new furniture installed. We have had the playground resurfaced and marked out with courts and activities that everyone can access. We are keen to keep the school looking great and I hope that as I work with the School Council we will undertake more projects which will allow the school environment to improve further.

Ready

We were delighted with the Y6 SATS results in the summer. Despite all the challenges posed by the pandemic we appear to have risen to the occasion. Their results are a credit to them, their families and the school. 78% of our pupils achieved Expected Standard in Reading, 71% in Maths and 80% in Writing. Well done to each and every one of them!

We are now ready to start again with our current cohort and our aspirations for them are even greater. We hope to involve you again in school life and you will be invited in for key events and assemblies.

Resilience

Helping our children to be resilient in difficult situations is one of our main priorities here at James Bateman. The past 2 years has certainly shown how important it is for all of us to practice conscious resilience. We know that there are times when children may struggle with their emotions and this may result in them being issued with behaviour points. If a child receives behaviour points, you will be notified via the Arbor app and they will complete a detention with the issuing member of staff. They will both sit together to discuss what happened to lead to the sanction, why this might have been the case and what they can both do to help them to avoid this in the future. This restorative conversation is so important in putting the relationship between adult and child right as we know that this helps every child to feel safe and learn at their best. We also know that the relationship between school, child and home is paramount to the success of our children.

We also have a whole range of interventions that can support our pupils in respect of mental health and well-being. More information can be found on the website or by contacting the school directly.

Education

We have made many changes to our systems and process and 81% of you have now created accounts and logged onto the parent portal of the Arbor App. This is now our main method of communication to you. All letters, behaviour incidents, house points and attendance will all be communicated to you in this way. It is vital that you sign up and keep us up to date with new email addresses and mobile numbers so that you are fully informed of school events. A big change is that you will be notified of all behaviour points and of course house points. You will also be able to monitor attendance. There is an accompanying letter to explain the behaviour policy in more detail.

Feedback from Parent/Carers has told us that we could, at times, be better in communicating school news with you. I agree that this is something we have neglected since Covid and I want to thank you for flagging this up to us. This year we will be sending out regular newsletters, using Twitter, Facebook and the school website. We will also use Arbor to provide you with timely communication. Feedback like this from Parent Voice surveys and Forums is very welcome, so please let us know your views. Our Parent Voice and Parent Forum will follow shortly. I would urge you to share your views so that together we can continue to move the school forward.

James Bateman is a cashless school. As you will be aware ParentPay is being replaced and all payments will be made through Arbor. We are in the process of setting up our residential visits and the Base care club and all payments already made to ParentPay for these will be accounted for. We will send an app message once these have been finalised. You will not be able to make any payments without signing up to the Arbor App. If you have not received a login, please email jpearce@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk.

I know that the news of Queen Elizabeth's passing last week is a sad occasion for the nation; our community is no exception. Our pupils discussed the life and death of the Queen on Friday in assembly and form time and then the whole school sat in silence to pay tribute to her memory. It was a lovely moment. Inevitably, such sad occasions will evoke memories and thoughts of our own experiences and lost loved ones. Staff were all on hand to support pupils if they wanted to talk further.

I want to share a little piece of data which might interest you. It won't be news to anyone that good attendance results in good academic outcomes. However, national data shows that pupils with attendance of 96%+ achieve higher (by almost a grade) than pupils whose attendance is below 95% despite them being of the same ability. Of course, when a child is ill, they must stay home to recover. However, whenever possible, children should be in school, on time and they will learn well!

I will be holding a Parents Forum meeting on Wednesday 12th October at 9.00am and again on Thursday 13th October at 3.45pm. Please contact Mrs Moss via email dross@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk if you would like to reserve a slot should you wish to meet with me.

Key dates for this half term -

When?	What? Why is it important to attend?
22 nd September 3.45-5.00 pm	Year 5 settling in evening. Parent's Evening You AND your child can speak to teachers about their progress and what they need to do to achieve their potential.
15th October 9.00- 12.30pm	Open Morning - Prospective parents/carers and pupils are welcome to come to school to get to know us as they are making the very important decision of which school is best for them.
21st October	Half term break. Family time! Enjoy.

Kind regards



Mrs T Price

Headteacher