



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT  
ST. HELENA ISLAND

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Dear Parent,

Welcome to the start of a brand new academic year—2024/25!

We ended on a high last academic year with a successful Open Day, Awards evening/Leavers event, plus we won the cricket tournament and took second place in the rounder's tournament. In addition, our PTA, along with school staff, organised a successful winter dance at the Godfather's Rock Club and a family bingo evening at the Jamestown Community Centre. All events were thoroughly enjoyed and we sincerely thank everyone for making these events happen.

We are now starting a brand new academic year. Six new nursery children joined us and six more will join in January. In addition, one new pupil joined. Our school role currently stands at 93 and with our January intake, we will reach the 100 mark. We extend a very warm welcome to all new pupils and parents and hope that they enjoy all that our school has to offer.

Our **staff list for this academic year** is as follows:

Early Years' Teacher (Nursery and Reception combined this year): Miss Sandra George

Year 1/2: Miss Tara Caswell (with some of the core subject teaching also done by Mrs. Winnie Thomas (Classroom Instructor) and Mrs. Brenda Corker (who also leads on interventions).

Year 3: Miss Chelsea Henry (Classroom Instructor)

Year 4: Miss Cherilee Cranfield

Year 5: Mr. Steve Plato (Deputy Head)

Year 6: Mrs. Meggie Brooks (Senior Teacher)

Temporary Higher Level Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Tina Brady (also Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and Miss Roxanna Williams (also supporting Early Years).

Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Claris George, Mrs. Julie Anthony, Miss Asita O'Bey, Miss Heidi Joshua, Miss Shellie Crowie, Miss Shalana Clingham, Mrs. Jackie Joshua and newly recruited Miss Isobel Fowler and Miss Kimberly Yon (a very warm welcome, Miss Yon and Miss Fowler).

School Secretary: Miss Chelsea Lawrence

Auxiliary Worker: Vacant

Groundsman: Vacant

Of course every new academic year starts with goals and aspirations, always reflecting on what went well and not so well in the previous academic year and striving to do even better. This year is no exception, as we work towards our targets and aim to be the best we can be. In addition, safeguarding continues to be a key priority area for the Directorate at large.

The **primary review** is well under way with our new interim Director in place, Mrs. Marie Horton, who is leading the way on this with relevant stakeholder input. Of course you as parents will be kept informed and there will be relevant meetings/updates at such time when there is information to be shared, discussed or consulted upon.

Attached is a letter also from Mrs. Horton in relation to one of the directorate's initiatives towards improving communication with parents/guardians through enhanced technology. Should there be any questions in relation to this, please do contact me at school, or in turn I can direct you to the relevant person(s) in the Directorate who can explain the rationale in more detail.

### **Free online courses in emotional health**

The Health and Social Care Directorate's 0-19 Health Services Team is investing further in children's wellbeing and is partnering with the NHS team to provide free online courses in emotional health via [inourplace.co.uk](http://inourplace.co.uk). A letter from the Health Services Team is attached. Please contact me at school if you are interested but would need access to a computer. I am sure we can make an arrangement.

### **School Handbook Information**

All information in our school handbook currently remains (the staff list has been revised and included earlier in this letter). All parents have been previously issued with a Handbook; however, if you have misplaced your copy and would like another copy, please contact the school. All new parents will receive a copy of the school handbook. Please do make yourself familiar with our school expectations. By now we should have received all school admission forms either in hard copy or by email. If you haven't already done so, this is a gentle reminder. Just a reminder also that as we progress through the year, any admission forms/details must be updated if a child moves residence or if there is a change of contact arrangement.

### **PTA Committee/AGM**

A huge thank you to all those parents who served on our last Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Committee last year and who did a brilliant job in promoting our school. We will be looking for members to serve on our new committee this year and indeed, we would welcome some dads. We normally meet regularly for about an hour to an hour and a half every half term (every seven weeks) to discuss school business and fundraising initiatives. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, 16 September at 5.15 p.m. (together with our Back to School meeting). We would like to see all parents in attendance.

Of course, Term 1 is an extra busy term as we start planning ahead for our upcoming events and festivities.

**Events coming up for this term are as follows:**

<b>Term 1A</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Who is involved</b>
Week 3: Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Back to School evening/Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Annual General Meeting: 5.15pm.	All Parents (Parents automatically become members of the association upon joining our school hence everybody are encouraged to attend. We will be looking to elect a PTA Committee who will lead the way on school initiatives as per our PTA Constitution.
Week 4 : Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Theme Day: World Tourism Day	In school event
Week 4: Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Teacher Appreciation Day	In school event/PTA
Week 7: Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (end of Term 1a)	Harvest Assembly: 11am (in school playground weather permitting)	All parents and family members invited

<b>Term 1B</b>		
Week 1: Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween Theme day	In school event
Week 3: 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week	In school event
Week 3: Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	King's Birthday (Public Holiday)	All
Week 4 : 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parliament Week	In school event
Week 6: Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Rehearsal: Advent play	School
Week 6: Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Service: St James/ Church, 12.15	All welcome to attend (also open to the public)
Week 6 Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Primary Schools' Swimming Gala – 9.45am	All welcome to attend (also open to the public)
Week 7: Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Caroling at Canister: 12 noon	Public event
Week 7: Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Party Day	In school event
Holidays : Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Bonanza, 4-8pm, School playground	Public event
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Festival of lights, 7.30pm, Jamestown	Public event

Additional details will be given nearer the time for some of the bigger events. However, our biggest public event and one that is much looked forward to in the St Helena Christmas calendar is our 'Festival of Lights', which also attracts many visitors. To make this year's event as spectacular as previous years, we are going to need the help of parents (and friends), particularly those with skills to share, such as carpenters and electricians, and those with some craft or artistic skills to assist in making our school floats. I am attaching a little form that I would like every parent/guardian to complete and return so that we have a record of those with skills that will be invaluable when it comes to Christmas activities (which also includes our Family Night/Christmas Bonanza) but also for any other future activities that the school may host from time to time. We really do need and would certainly appreciate any help that you can provide. Thank You!

To conclude, we look forward to working together to enjoy another successful year ahead. Our school motto is 'Together as one!' We trust that we can work together once again this year in the best interest of our children.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Elaine Benjamin, Head Teacher  
05/09/24