To: All Parents / Carers

17th September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

**After School Activity Clubs**

All information regarding our programme for after school activities was sent at the beginning of the week and are available to book via ParentPay. If the clubs are full you will not be able to proceed to the payment page. If this is this case please email office@stjeromebilingual.org to register your interest for our future planning.

We hope the children will enjoy the activity clubs which begin next week.

**Junior Tennis**

Following the phenomenal success of Emma Raducanu last weekend at the US Open Tennis Tournament your children may show an interest in the sport. The school has worked with Kenton Tennis Club since opening in 2016 and they offer Junior Coaching Sessions. Details can be found via the following link: <https://www.ignitetennis.co.uk/juniors>

**Punctuality**

Punctuality is a life skill that prepares your children for future education and life opportunities. The school operates a soft start which means children can arrive for school at any time between **8.30am and 8.55am** each school day.

Pupils arriving late for school miss out on essential instructions given by the teachers each morning and learning opportunities. They also can cause disruption in the class and for other pupils as they settle in. Since the start of this academic year we have recorded 41 late arrivals resulting in a cumulative total of just under 9 hours of missed education. Where this is a recurring matter, I will be writing to families individually.

The school has a duty of care to your children to ensure they receive their full entitlement to education and therefore I request that you ensure your child(ren) arrive on time for school every day. To reiterate your child(ren) can come to school from **8.30am.**

**Free School Meals and other financial assistance**

We want to make sure that we are providing your child(ren) with the best education and support we can.

The Government provides additional funding to schools to support children whose families are in receipt of UK Benefits and it is possible your financial circumstances have changed since your child(ren) started school at St. Jérôme or due to the pandemic.

Apart from providing Free School Meals throughout a pupil’s time at primary school, our school is able to support the child and their family in a number of different ways including uniform subsidy, help with paying for trips, after school activity clubs and other activities.

You may be able to get Universal Credit and claim free school meals for your child(ren) if:

* you’re on a low income or out of work
* you’re 18 or over (there are some exceptions if you’re 16 to 17)
* you’re under [State Pension age](https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age) (or your partner is)
* you and your partner have £16,000 or less in savings between you
* you live in the UK

If you’re an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family usually also need settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme to get Universal Credit. The deadline to apply to the scheme was 30 June 2021 for most people, but you might still be able to apply. [Check if you can still apply to the EU Settlement Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/who-can-apply).

Please contact the school office if you think you may be eligible.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Daniel Norris

Headteacher