



Ready, Respectful, Resilient

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

02 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your children were simply wonderful throughout the audition process, and we hope they enjoyed finding out their roles in *Annie Jr.* this week! There has been such a lovely buzz around school, and it has been fantastic to see how excited the children are about the production.

We just wanted to remind you that full cast rehearsals begin on Monday 5th October, from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. This first rehearsal is particularly important as we will be bringing the whole cast together for the first time. Pupils will be given their scripts, and we will begin with a full read through of the play. This will give them the opportunity to learn more about their characters, highlight their lines and begin practising their speaking parts and songs. **All cast members are expected to attend the Monday after school rehearsal every week.**

If your child is part of our Tech Team, they will also need to attend all rehearsals! Our Tech Team are just as important to the production as our cast and will play a huge role in bringing the show to life. Attending rehearsals will allow them to become familiar with the show, understand what is happening in each scene and begin planning their roles behind the scenes.

If your child has expressed an interest in joining our Backstage Crew, they do not need to attend rehearsals just yet. Our Backstage Crew will be incredibly important to the production, but at this early stage we simply do not have our sets and props ready for them to work with! As the production develops and we begin bringing together the scenery, props and other elements of the show, we will let the Backstage Crew know when we are ready for them to join us. There will be lots for them to get involved with as we get closer to show week!

As we get closer to the show in March 2027, **Monday rehearsals will be extended from 3:30pm until 5:00pm** to give us some extra time to polish and perfect the production ready for our performances. We will give parents and carers plenty of notice before these extended rehearsals begin.

Lunchtime rehearsals for selected cast members will begin the following week, week beginning 12th October. These will take place on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes. Not every cast member will be required for every lunchtime rehearsal, so a weekly schedule will be displayed on the *Annie Jr.* noticeboard in school.

James Bateman Middle School, Park Lane, Knypersley, Staffordshire, ST8 7AT.

Telephone: 01782 973900 **Email:** office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk

We are incredibly excited to get started and cannot wait to see the production begin to come together. There is already so much enthusiasm from everyone involved, and we know we have a very special few months ahead of us! Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you for your support at home, particularly to those of you who helped with lines, songs and preparations for the auditions. We are sure there will be plenty more rehearsing at home over the coming months! We apologise in advance if, by March, you know your child's lines just as well as they do!

Thank you again for your continued support. We cannot wait to get started!

The Annie Jr. Production Team