



Newsletter

14th September 2018

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This Week at St James'...

Our first full week back together, and it's been great, although I think children and staff alike are looking forward to a restful weekend. Our new Robins children have enjoyed their first week at school, and have settled in so well to school life, it's been really lovely to visit the classroom and see them all so engaged with learning and making lots of new friends.

Thank you to all of you who were able to come in for our meet the teacher sessions—it's really important for us all to know one another and establish home/school relationships early in the year, so we can all work together to the benefit of your children. Please remember that we will always try and be available to you when you need us, but ask that in the morning, only quick messages are shared with teachers, allowing them to get into class promptly to complete the registers ahead of first lessons starting at 9.00—thank you.

Already, Peacocks have been on their first visit of the year, heading off to follow the Biddenham Trail as part of their topic work. They have also received a special delivery of some caterpillars, which they are going to see grow into beautiful butterflies.

Next week, Children in Years 5 and 6 will take part in an basketball competition in school, supported by our Sports Partnership colleagues. On Wednesday, Year 6 will receive visits from local secondary schools—St Thomas More and Biddenham, as they start to prepare for their transition to secondary school next year. Please remember that now is the time to start considering and making your applications for secondary school—any parents who have not yet received the Admissions letter, please contact the school office to get a copy.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all at St James'

Caterlink—School Meals

If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 payment for School meals will be required – please ignore this message if you have already made payments.

Currently Meals are £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Payment can be daily, weekly or half termly/termly. We have been informed by Caterlink that the cost of a school meal will be changing – we will inform you once we have more information.

Payment from Wednesday 5th September up until Friday 19th October totals £70.95. If you have paid the full termly amount of £70.95 and your child is off school, whether it is due to sickness or school trip, your child's account will be credited and you will not be charged for that particular day's school meal.

Please send payment in an envelope clearly stating your child's name and amount enclosed. If you are paying by cheque please make cheques payable to Caterlink. We are in the process of transferring to online payments, once this has been set up via Caterlink a letter will be sent home with instructions on how to set up an account.

Caterlink provide meals on a pre-paid basis only - all meals MUST be paid for in advance.

NHS Vision Screening Questionnaire - Reception Only

On Monday children from Robins took home a NHS Vision Screening Questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire and return to school at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

St James' School App for Smartphones

If you haven't already done so, please download our school app. Through the app you can view the school calendar, newsletters and other handy links.

To download the app, locate 'School Jotter' in the search bar of your app store. The app icon has a pencil logo. Once downloaded, search for the school's postcode – MK40 4BD. The old school logo should appear, select this and the app should then download.

Any problems, speak to Dawn in the Office for help.

Individual Photos - Wednesday, 26th September

Every year, we invite a professional photographer into school to take photos of your children. In the past we have assumed that parents are happy for us to do this, unless they tell us otherwise. However, with the new GDPR regulations, we now need to gain your consent to do this. Please complete the slip which has been sent home today and return to the school office as soon as you are able. If you fail to return your slip, we will assume that your consent is not given and your child will not visit the photographer.

The photographs are stored on the photographers computer system as digital images, and a paper copy is sent home to you, for the purposes of ordering. We also store digital copies on our school management system in your child's personal record. We print them only for purposes of supporting your child, for example to share medical information with staff. We do not publish these photos outside of school for any purpose, unless we have your specific approval and consent. Tempest Photography do not share the photos beyond the school.

Reminders

- Children will need a coat in school (in case of unreliable weather!)
- If your child wishes to use the field at playtime, please ensure they have a pair of old shoes/trainers/boots which they can change into; that way we can keep school shoes looking smart
- Classlist is an app used by the PSA to enable parents to easily talk to one another; messages or queries for school staff should not come through Classlist, as this is not an app used by staff
- Any leave of absence must be requested in writing using the form available in advance of the leave; leave of absence for the purposes of holiday will not be authorised
- Please ensure we have up-to-date contact details so that we may contact you easily and quickly in an emergency or when your child has been taken ill at school
- In situations where your child has vomited or has experienced diarrhoea, you must keep your child away from school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness, even if they appear to have recovered from the illness. This is in line with Health Authority advice.
- Remember to put all monies in a clearly labelled purse or envelope—it is very difficult for staff to keep track of loose money, and there is always a chance of your payments being lost or credited to the wrong family
- PE kit should be in school every day, please
- Food in school—chocolate bars, sweets, drinks other than water must not be brought into school. All food items MUST be nut free, as we have a number of children with serious allergies.
- Birthdays—children may wear their own clothes on their birthday (or on the closest Monday/Friday if their birthday falls at the weekend/holidays). Please do not bring sweets or cakes to share.



Twitter users.....Follow St James': [@StJamesHead](https://twitter.com/StJamesHead) for regular school updates



Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Moment this week is awarded to Lily—the reason is a bit of a secret between Lily and I, but she has been just brilliant this week and I am really proud of the lovely girl she is and her very caring, compassionate, gentle and funny personality. Keep being brilliant, Lily, I think you're ACE!

RELAY

Since September 2015, we have participated in the RELAY Scheme in partnership with Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police.

The RELAY Scheme acts as a school notification service where incidents of domestic abuse have been reported in the previous 24 hours to Bedfordshire Police from households where children reside and are on the school roll.

The RELAY Scheme is coordinated by Ms Soulsby (the Safeguarding Lead at our school) and is facilitated by the Early Help Service at Bedford Borough Children's Services. The Scheme has been implemented within the majority of schools in Bedford Borough.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) reported that 4.3% of men and 7.5% of women stated that they have experienced domestic abuse in 2016/17. This is equivalent to an estimated 713,000 male victims and 1.2 million female victims.

- For every three victims of domestic abuse, two will be female, one will be male.
- For every four victims of stalking, three will be female and one will be male.
- On average victims experience 50 incidents of abuse before getting effective help
- Every minute in the UK police receive a call for assistance concerning domestic abuse
- 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy
- 70% of high risk victims have children

The aims of the scheme are to:

- Raise awareness of the circumstances under which a child may be attending school and how subsequently they may present in terms of their behavioural and emotional responses throughout the school day.
- Provide a source of support through the educational setting for families impacted by domestic abuse.
- Make referrals where required for safeguarding purposes to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, or where parental consent is given, and where it is appropriate to do so, complete an Early Help Assessment for additional support.

As a school we feel it vital that we work alongside Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Council to achieve these aims.

If you would like more information about the Scheme or support that can be offered around Domestic Abuse please speak with Maria Soulsby

Coming Up...

Tuesday	Y5 & 6 Basketball Competition
Thursday	Mrs Doughty will be away from school as she is on a course that day

From 10th-17th October our School Book Fair will be here—further details to come



Pupil Governors 2018 – 2019

St. James' Pupil Governors are elected to represent the views of all pupils and to help improve our school.

Last year's Pupil Governors were very active and helped to organise the following exciting activities: a cake sale and a Mufti Day to raise money for 'Children in Need, Friendship Week and a jumble sale to raise money for UNICEF (Syrian refugees).

Two Pupil Governors from each class will be elected. They will be required to attend a meeting once a fortnight during lunch time.

Do you have any of the following skills? Then this role may be for you!

- An excellent listener
- Approachable
- Confident
- Good at explaining
- Works co-operatively with others and respects their views
- Reliable and willing to give up some of your own time to attend meetings
- Enthusiastic and energetic
- Enjoys problem solving
- Is prepared not to be popular with everyone

If you want to become a Pupil Governor, you will need to write a short speech to say why you think you will be good at the role and what you would like to achieve. Also, please create a campaign poster that can be displayed in your classroom/the school hall.

Speeches and posters should be completed and in school by **Tuesday 18th September**. If you need any resources for this please see Mrs Doughty or your class teacher.

Campaigns will take place in classes on Wednesday 19th September or Thursday 20th September (depending upon your teacher) and then each class will vote in the hall (which will be set up as a polling station) on the morning of Friday 21st September.

Safeguarding

We take our duty of care to children very seriously, and all staff have received appropriate training in safeguarding and child protection. All staff are advised to record and report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Maria Soulsby), who will decide on the most appropriate action. In some cases, this will mean making a referral to the Local Authority and/or police. If we have a concern about your child, in most cases, we will discuss this with you. Should you have any concern about your or any other child in school, please speak in confidence to Ms Soulsby. In her absence, Mr Leach is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

By being open and alert to the needs of all children, we can work together to keep all St James' children safe and well.

Class Assemblies –all at 2.30pm

Robins	6th December	22nd March	24th May
Whinchats	7th December	8th March	17th May
Canaries	16th November	1st March	28th June
Green Jays	23rd November	22nd February	10th May
Kingfishers	30th November	8th February	3rd May
Peacocks	9th November	25th January	5th July
Sabrewings	2nd November	18th January	Leaver's Service

Dates for this year

Always check weekly newsletters for updates and changes. The school website calendar is also regularly updated.

September

26th Individual & school based siblings Photographs
 28th Macmillan Coffee Morning

October

3rd Harvest Service in school 2.00
 12th Book Blink 3.00-3.30
 16th Parent/Teacher meetings 4.00-7.00
 18th Parent/Teacher meetings 4.00-6.00
22nd-26th HALF TERM
 29th Children return to school

November

12th Year 6 Height & weight measurement
 w/b 12th Friendship Week
 w/b 19th Road Safety Week
 27th Flu vaccinations YR-5

December

3rd Decoration afternoon 1.30—open afternoon for all parents
 13th Christmas Jumper Day
 14th Whole school pantomime trip
 18th Christmas Show—Robins, Whinchats, Canaries 2.00, 4.00
 19th Christmas Service @ school 2.00
 20th Christmas Lunch
 Carols Round the Tree 4.00
21st End of Term



Following the success of last year, we are again hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on the 28th September from 9.15 to 10.45. Everyone is welcome to attend for a coffee, cake, chat and charity raising games! Pupils from a St James class will be helping serve and take donations from all attending.

Any and all donations of cakes (homemade or store-bought) will be gratefully received from the Wednesday and Thursday of that week.



'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs

Tea for the children!

Tuesday 18 September
Tuesday 23 October
4.30pm - 6.00pm
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 23 September
Sunday 28 October
4.00pm - 5.30pm
All Saints Church Hall, Kempston

For children of all ages
(accompanied by an adult)

Free - No need to book - Just come along!

Everybody Welcome!

St James's Church, Biddenham
All Saints Church, Kempston

Year 6 Parents

Already, you need to be thinking about secondary schools for next year! All year 6 children have taken home information & details of Open Evenings. You must apply by 31st October. Speak to Ms Soulsby & Mr Leach if you have any questions, but please be aware, we can not make personal recommendations for any school. We strongly advise you visit as many schools as you can and try not to base your decisions solely on rumour and past histories.