



Newsletter

21st September 2018

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This Week at St James'...

We're now well into September, and the signs of Autumn are quickly upon us, and the rhythm of school life has kicked in. On Tuesday, children in Years 5 and 6 took part in an intra-school basketball tournament, organized by our School Sports Partnership, and led by excellent Sports Leaders from Biddenham School—the children had a wonderful time, and it was good to see the start of competitive sports at St James'. This week, children in Year 6 have received visits from St Thomas More and Biddenham Secondary Schools, ahead of their Open Evenings in readiness for secondary school applications. Hopefully, the children have told you all about the visits. We're really lucky at St James', in that we feed into 3 secondary schools (Biddenham, St Thomas More and Lincroft), giving parents great choice in terms of next steps. Later on today, I will be going to Biddenham School to find out about their bid to set up a Student Parliament in Bedford—hopefully, this will be something our children will be able to become involved in, strengthening 'pupil voice' in our school and local community—more details to come.

Now that we're back into the routine of school life, I have re-started my commitment to walk to school as much as I can. I only live in Bromham, and the walk takes me about half an hour. I'm hoping to achieve 3 things: get a little bit fitter, lose weight, and make a small contribution to reducing traffic congestion, and I actually quite enjoy it. We encourage children to walk (scoot, cycle) to school as often as possible, for similar reasons (although the need to lose weight is very much just for me!). Please consider walking to school whenever you can, and even if you can't walk the whole journey, maybe you could park and stride (park some distance from school, maybe on Deep Spinney, and walk the rest of your journey)? Doing so will really help to reduce traffic around the school gate.

Next week is individual photograph day—please remember to return your consent forms. We're also looking forward to our Macmillan Coffee Morning—I hope you're able to join us, and help raise money for this fantastic charity.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Staff News

Mr Tapley is away from school at the moment having an operation on his eye, following a recent rugby injury—we hope to see him back in school next week, and wish Pat a speedy recovery.

Mrs Wilding will be away from school next Friday on compassionate leave, following a recent bereavement. We extend our deepest sympathies to Helen and her family at this difficult time.

Miss Bailey will be out of school on Monday, attending a SENDCo training day; Mrs LeNette will be covering her class.

Finally, Miss Williams has given birth to a beautiful baby boy, named Seth. Both mum and baby are well, and we're all looking forward to seeing them soon. I know you will share in our love and best wishes to Laura and her family.

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.



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 St James' will be helping serve and take donations from all attending.

Any and all donations of cakes (homemade or store-bought) will be gratefully received on Wednesday and Thursday next week. Please remember

NO NUTS due to severe allergies—thank you!

Can You Help?

We're looking for donations of equipment to supplement our existing lunchtime resources and toys. If you have any items which might be useful, we'd be pleased to receive them:

- Good quality board games, jigsaws, lego, duplo suitable for wet play activities
- Plastic tea sets
- Tarpaulins, picnic blankets
- Plastic crates (bottle crates, for example)
- Good quality decking planks or similar (sanded, so no danger of splinters)
- Guttering pipes
- Old tents, camping chairs
- Old tyres
- Plastic boxes, with lids, for storage
- Old goal posts
- Any good quality sports equipment or outdoor games

Thank you!



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



Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Moment this week is awarded to Millie. Millie, every time I see you, I notice a helpful, mature and cheerful young lady, who is setting a really great example for other children. You are embracing being in Year 5 with a fantastic attitude and I'm so very proud of you. Thank you!

What to do if you need to speak with staff

In any school, there will be times when parents wish to speak with school staff to share any concerns, worries or ask questions. We hope that parents always feel able to do this, and that we will respond quickly and positively. If you do need to talk to us, here's how:

If you have a quick comment/question, you can always approach Ms Soulsby at the school gate at the start or end of the school day.

If you need more time or privacy, you should always contact your child's class teacher first. This is because they know your child best and have the most influence in addressing any problems—they will let senior staff know if they need further advice and support. You can ask them for an appointment when you drop off, or telephone the office and ask Dawn to help arrange something. We can usually speak to you on the phone within a couple of days; sometimes appointments may take longer because of our commitments to meetings and other activities outside of the school day.

If you have a concern about your child's special educational needs, you should ask to speak with Miss Bailey, who is our SENDCo. If you have a safeguarding concern, you should ask to speak with Ms Soulsby, who is our designated safeguarding lead (Mr Leach is her deputy in her absence).

If you are unhappy with the way that your child's teacher has handled your concern, you should then contact Mr Leach if your child is in KS2, or Ms Soulsby if your child is in EYFS or KS1.

If you continue to have concerns after speaking with Mr Leach, you should contact Ms Soulsby. If you are unhappy about Ms Soulsby's actions, you should contact the Chair of Governors.

Following these steps will help us to help you address concerns quickly and easily for the benefit of your child. Please note that staff will not respond to concerns raised via Classlist or any other social media. Emails to staff can be sent via the school office. Our full complaints policy can be found on our school website.

Christian Club

Kath and Peta are back with us year to lead our popular Christian Club on Thursday lunchtimes. The club is free and is a fun and interactive way for children to explore the Bible through stories, crafts and games. It is open to children in Years 3 and 4. It is led and organised by Kath and Peta, who are DBS cleared and supported by IMPACT, which is the Christian Schools' Trust for Bedford schools.

Coming Up...

Wednesday	Mr Leach & Ms Soulsby are both out of school Individual Photos
Friday	Macmillan Coffee Morning KS2 Outdoor Activities competition—Biddenham School
Wednesday, 3rd October	Harvest Service @2.00 in the School Hall—all parents welcome

Messages from the Office

Caterlink – Payments

We have been informed by Bedford Borough that through a robust procurement process the council have managed to achieve the best possible meal price without compromising standards and thus the prices have reduced to £2.10 a meal.

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. If you have already made payments before the reduced pricing were introduced, your child's caterlink account will show a credit.

To clarify, meals will be priced at £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week. Payment can be daily, weekly or half termly/termly. Payment from Wednesday 5th September up until Friday 19th October totals £69.30.

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 should be paid for in advance.

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 and return to the school office no later than Tuesday 25th September. 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 photographer's 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.

Individual and Sibling Photographs – 26th September 2018

I do/do not* give my consent for my child:..... Year

To have his/her individual/sibling photograph taken.

Signed..... (Parent/Carer)

(* Delete as applicable)

Dawn Until Dusk

Welcome back to DUD after a wonderfully hot and sunny Summer Break! We would also like to welcome all of the Reception children and other class years that have now joined us at Breakfast and After School Club. The children have settled in wonderfully and its great to see you all.

Our Theme Nights are held one day every other week with our next one being

- 'Frozen' week beginning 24th Sept. Date TBC.

The W/B 9th October will be a 'Dr Who' Theme, date TBC.

Please keep an eye on our pavement sign and poster displayed on our door into club for the dates and themes.

If you wish to book a place please just pop in to see Cathy or Sharon and we will be very happy to help.