



Newsletter

11th January, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

Welcome back to school and the start of a new year and term—I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas breaks, your children have returned with their usual energy and enthusiasm, and have shared so many stories of their busy and happy holidays.

This week, we have welcomed Mrs Morton back to school following her time away with the twins. Sarah has returned as Deputy Head on a part time basis, with a view to steadily building her hours back up as the twins grow up. Initially, she will be in school two days a week, usually on a Tuesday and Wednesday. We also have welcomed Abigail Ford into our Year 2 class; Abigail is a trainee teacher and will complete her second teaching placement with us over the coming half term working alongside Miss Bingham-Green. Anna Jones has also joined us in Year 5 for a two week work experience placement, as part of her university studies. Welcome also to our new children and families who have joined St James' this week, we're so pleased to welcome you into our special family!

On Monday, many of you may have noticed the staff in the Hall receiving first aid training. Because of the way we managed our Christmas holidays, we lost an INSET day, so staff agreed to receive some of the training at the end of the school day. On Monday, we received basic first aid training, so that we are all able to respond quickly in emergency situations. Later in the term, we will come back together to update our safeguarding training.

Over the coming term, we will be replacing our current phone system, which is very old and not very useful, in that only one person can use the phone at a time, which is why very often you have to leave a message when you call the school. We don't anticipate losing our current connection, but there may be times when we experience difficulties—please bear with us if this happens, it really will only be a short term issue.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Dear Children...

It's been really great to see you all again after your Christmas breaks—it sounds like you all had a wonderful time away from school. I've enjoyed listening to your stories about your adventures, from hot tubs and fireworks to hikes up the mountains and swimming in the sea—you really have been very spoilt by your families (remember to appreciate these opportunities, you are very lucky!)

It's going to get a bit colder for a while, so please remember to wrap up warm when you come to school—coats, hats, gloves & scarves will be needed, and please remember to put your names on them so we can get them back to you quickly if you lose them. Thank you!

I hope you're looking forward to the next term, and I can't wait to hear about all the new things you will be learning—please come and show me your books from time to time, especially if you think you'd like a pen licence! Be brilliant & work hard!

Ms Soulsby

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
- Good quality dolls and dolls clothes (the younger children are enjoying playing babies!)

Thank you!



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

Who to talk to if I have a query, concern or complaint

We are a growing school, and with the return of Mrs Morton, we have reviewed staff responsibilities so that we have a more manageable, distributed leadership structure that will be able to support you more effectively when you have queries and concerns. We do try to keep our doors open to you, but ask that only quick messages are shared first thing in the morning. This is so that staff can get children into school, take registers and ensure everyone is ready for the first lessons at 9.00.

The gate will be 'manned' by Ms Soulsby and other members of staff—this is so that you get to meet other leaders in school, as well as freeing up some time for Maria to attend meetings and complete other tasks linked to whole school leadership and management.

If you have a concern about your child, you should always contact the class teacher first. They are best placed to answer your questions or address your concerns because they know your child so well. They can also quickly make changes or put in steps to support your child.

If you feel that you need more support or that your child's teacher has not really addressed your concern, then please speak with either **Mrs Morton** (for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2), or **Mr Leach** for children in Years 3,4,5, and 6. This is because they have delegated leadership of these 'phases' in school.

If you feel you have exhausted these channels and need to take your concern further, then you should contact Ms Soulsby.

You can contact us by either telephoning the school office and leaving a message, or emailing the school. We will endeavour to respond to your telephone call or email within 3 school days. Emails are checked every morning, so please be aware that if you send an email towards the end of the school day, this might not be seen until the following morning.

Should you have a safeguarding concern about any child, you can speak to Ms Soulsby, Mr Leach or Mrs Morton, who are all trained at the highest level for safeguarding and are qualified 'Safeguarding Leads' - this means that they have full access to safeguarding information and know how to make referrals to the Local Authority, where necessary. For Safeguarding concerns, we will always prioritise these and will get back to you within 24 hours, and usually before the end of the school day.

Our teachers are not usually available for appointments on Tuesdays, as this is when we have our weekly teacher meetings. Some Wednesdays and Thursdays are also used for teachers meetings.

Important Dates for the Term Ahead

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Weds, 16 th Jan, 6.00pm	KS2 SATs information evening in the Hall	Y6	IL	Primarily for Y6 parents, but all interested parents are welcome
Friday, 18 th Jan, 2.30pm	Y6 Class Assembly	Y6	IL	
Friday, 25 th Jan, 2.30 pm	Y5 Class Assembly	Y5	TKL	
w/b 28 th Jan	Arts Week	Whole school	SBG	
Weds 30 th Jan	Cross Country	Y6	IL	
Thurs 31 st Jan, from 2.00	Open afternoon – arts	Whole school	SBG	
Fri, 1 st Feb 3.00	Book Blink	Whole school	Class Teachers	Please aim to be finished sharing children's books by 3.30pm
Tuesday, 5 th Feb	Gymnastics event	KS1, Years 3 & 4	Class Teachers	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Fri, 8 th Feb, 2.30pm	Y4 Class Assembly	Y4	LR	
Sat, 9 th Feb 12.30pm	Honour Guard at Bedford Blues	Selected children	GH, MS	Information about this will be sent home in due course
11 th -15 th Feb	Half Term	Whole school		
Fri 22 nd Feb, 2.30pm	Y3 Class Assembly	Y3	GH	
Weds, 27 th Feb 5.00pm Hall	Phonics Information for parents		CD, NB	Primarily for Reception and Year 1 parents, but all interested parents are welcome to attend
Fri, 1 st March, 2.30pm	Y2 Class Assembly	Y2	SBG	
Weds 6 th March	Multi-Sports	Y3 & 4	SBG, LR	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Thurs 7 th March	World Book Day Open Afternoon from 2.00pm	Whole school	WL	
Fri 8 th March, 2.30pm	Y1 class assembly	Y1	NB	
w/b 11 th March	Science Week	Whole school	TKL	
Tues 12 th March 4.00-7.00	Parent/Teacher meetings	Whole school	Class Teachers	
Thurs 14 th March or Thurs 21 st March	Football game	Y5	TKL	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Thurs 14 th March 4.00-6.00	Parent/Teacher meetings	Whole school	Class Teachers	
Fri 15 th March	Red Nose Day	Whole school	IL	
Mon 18 th March – afternoon & early evening	Big Spring Sing Up at the Corn Exchange	Y6	IL	
Fri 22 nd March, 2.30pm	YR Class Assembly	YR	CD	
Mon 25 th March	Class Photos	Whole school	DS	
Tues 26 th March	Girls Football	Y 5 & 6	TKL, IL	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Weds 27 th March 5.00pm	KS1 SATs Information for parents	Y2	SBG	Primarily for Y2 parents, but all interested parents are welcome
Fri 29 th March 3.00pm	Book Blink	Whole school	Class Teachers	Please aim to be finished by 3.30pm
Thurs 4 th April	Multi-skills	Y1 & 2	NB, SBG	A letter will be sent home in due course if your child is participating in this event
Fri 5 th April 2.00pm	Easter Service	Whole school	TKL	
8 th -23 rd April Easter Holiday	23 rd April is an INSET Day Children return to school on Weds 24 th April			

How do you feel about your child's education?

Come and have your say at
The Big Education Conversation

You are invited to join us on:
Wednesday 23rd January 2019
6.00pm

Peter Pan Children's Centre
Edward Road
Bedford

What message would you like to give locally and nationally?

This is an "open space" event where all participants will be able to say as little or as much as they want to. It is an opportunity to share and listen to other people's views.

Places are limited so please email:
Sandra Munday at

teachingschool@bedfordnurseryschools.com
to reserve your place today!

This is a pilot project in partnership with Schools of Tomorrow and Whole Education.



Peter Pan
Teaching
School Alliance

Whole
Education



**BEDFORD BLUES
FEBRUARY
HALF TERM
RUGBY CAMP**



**BEDFORD
BLUES**



COMMUNITY

AT GOLDINGTON ROAD



CARTER
SULLIVAN

bluegreen
DESIGN CONSULTANTS

LOUSADA PLC

LEARN TO PLAY THE BLUES WAY

**TUE 12 FEB
WED 13 FEB
THU 14 FEB**

**£25 A DAY
£60 FOR 3 DAYS**

EARLY DROP OFF / LATE COLLECTION JUST £5 EXTRA

9AM-3PM

- ALL DAYS OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS
- ALL ABILITY LEVELS WELCOME
- AGES 5-15



**FREE KID'S TICKET
WITH EVERY BOOKING
FOR BEDFORD BLUES v
YORKSHIRE CARNEGIE
FRIDAY 1 MARCH**



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