



Newsletter

15th March, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

We say good-bye to our chicks today—2 of the hens have gone to join Elodie & Isla's brood, and the others will be collected by Living Eggs, who will ensure they are all ethically re-homed on free-range farms or smallholdings. The children have really enjoyed spending time with them, watching them develop from newly hatched, vulnerable chicks and learning first hand about the life cycle of animals. Many thanks to Miss Kassim-Lowe for organizing this project, and to all the staff who have helped look after them.

We were really pleased to meet with so many of you at consultation evenings this week—thank you for finding the time to come in and see us. We received many supportive and positive comments about the work we are doing with your children, and it means so much to us to know you appreciate our work. We are truly blessed at St James' to have a strong, committed team here, who work tirelessly to give their very best to the children, and it's always good to know that this commitment is appreciated and valued. Thank you.

Our new phones are now live and working, with only a little hiccup earlier in the week—thank you for your patience on Monday when the switch over took place a day early! There are 3 options for you: 1 allows you to leave a message (useful if you're letting us know of an absence), 2 takes you through to the office, and 3 is for finance. The office closes at the end of the school day, so if you call after 4.00pm, you will need to leave a message. The office re-opens again at around 8.30am.

Lots of science work this week on the theme of journeys, as part of British Science Week—along with the chicks, Years 1 & 2 had some time with Animal Aid, talking about how to look after animals, and the whole school enjoyed a visit from a scientist talking about her work. Our Red Nose Day activities saw St James' complete a dance-a-thon—children and staff spent the whole day dancing in the main foyer, enjoying the tunes on Mr Leach's playlist. Unfortunately, both our football match and Year 1&2 school trip were cancelled, due to the weather. Whilst these cancellations are disappointing, I am sure you will appreciate the need to ensure everyone is safe in what has been quite a wet and windy week!

Next Wednesday, our new office will be installed. We are moving Dawn and Rosie from their current office, which is quite small, into the main foyer area (where the library used to be), giving them more space in which to work. We ask parents to keep visits to the office to a minimum from Wednesday to Friday next week, to allow Dawn and Rosie the time and space they need to sort things out—again, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

RED NOSE DAY

Our Dance-a-thon raised £122.38—thank you to those who donated your £1.

Ferry Meadows Trip—Years 1&2

Due to adverse weather conditions, the school trip at Nene Valley Park had to be rescheduled. We were advised by the park that due to high wind speeds forecast for Friday they were unable to carry out all of the planned activities. We therefore took the decision to reschedule for safety reasons, in order for the children to get the full experience. We have provisionally rebooked for the 30th April, a letter will be sent home in due course. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



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

Birthdays

This is a gentle reminder that due to the amount of children in the school and various allergies and dietary requirements we are unable to hand out sweets or cakes on behalf of the children. Instead, children are able to wear their own clothes to celebrate their birthday. If your child's birthday falls in a school holiday or on a day where the children are already in mufti then you will be able to choose another day to come dressed in their birthday clothes.

Some parents still want to share cakes and sweets; this is something we don't encourage because of the risks involved, but if you wanted to do this with your child outside of the school gates, the school will not prevent this from happening. It is your responsibility to gain consent from parents, and ensure you are aware of allergies and dietary requirements (please note that the school will not provide you with this level of personal information), and that you take appropriate precautions.

Thank you for your support with this approach—we believe this allows children to enjoy their special day.



Pupil Governor News

We have decided that we want to raise some money to buy resources for each class/our school.

We are going to be holding a few events that we hope you will support us with.

Cake Sale – after school on 3rd April (we will be asking for donations of cakes soon!).

Also we are having a MUFTI day and hopefully a bracelet sale soon - dates TBC! (If you have any bracelets or badges that you would kindly donate to us please bring them into school).

Thanks in advance! Oliver, Isla B, Thomas, Aqualina, Katie, Lazzaro, Isla, Jack, Oliver L, Nyasha, Chloe and Michelle.



PSA News

We had a great meeting this week—minutes will be uploaded onto our page on the school's website shortly. We have lots of plans, big and small, to help raise money for the school to support school trips, and also to buy new playground equipment for the children.

Keep an eye out for....children's disco, quiz night, summer fayre, bake sales, bend the rules day, rainbow fun run...

In the meantime, please see the poster below about collecting old coins, and the information about Easy Fundraising (which really is the easiest way to get **free money for the school!**). And, don't forget to book your tickets for Mother's Day flower arrangements!

There is a lot of media attention regarding funding for schools—lots of schools are really struggling at the moment, and although St James' is ok at the moment, every little helps and this is where the PSA is so very important—please support us!



Easy Fundraising

If you do any online shopping, then you **MUST** register for Easy Fundraising, because it's easy, and the school will receive a donation. Basically, you start your online shopping on the Easy Fundraising site, choose your retailer, and then are taken to the your retailers website. You shop as normal, checkout and pay. The retailer then pays a small %age to the school. It really is that easy.

There is a 'how to' guide on the school website, if you need more help.

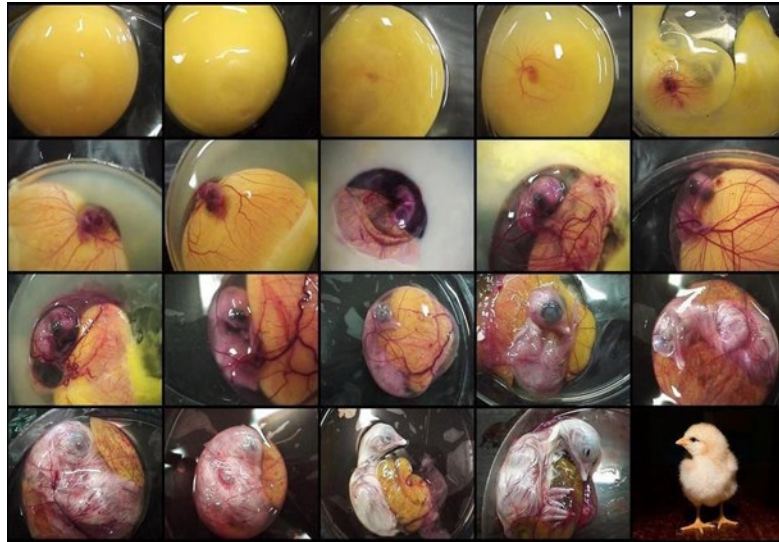
In the last month, we've raised just under £4, simply by using Easy Fundraising—that's £4 of **free money!** At the moment, we only have 51 supporters—just think how much we could turn that £4 into if **EVERY** parent joined up?

Retailers include: Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, Domino's Pizza, Admiral, Argos, Apple, Ticketmaster, Disney, ebay, Wickes, bathstore, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Just Eat, expedia, Tui, Thomas Cook, Airport Parking - literally hundreds! Please sign up, and get all your friends, family & work colleagues to sign up!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> - support St James Lower School PSA—Biddenham

The Hatching Chicks!!

These are the stages of chicks. They are amazing and interesting animals, and I love them.



These are the stages.

The first five stages: The yolk forms a little vein on the side.

Second five stages: The vein starts to get bigger and then forms a little slimy chick head and the veins spread around.

Third five stages: The body starts to form against the side of the yolk and then starts to form the eye.

Fourth stage: the yolk starts to get smaller as the chick gets bigger the chick starts to spread out. The beak starts to grow and the legs and feet.

The hatch: The chick pecks a little hole through the egg to see if it's safe. If it is safe then they peck a long line and hatch.

Surprisingly all ten of our chicks hatched. Chicks are lovely creatures and I guarantee you get one.

By Sara Ahmead

Important Dates for the Term Ahead

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Tues 19th March – after-noon & early evening	Big Spring Sing Up at the Corn Exchange	Y6	IL	Please note change of date— Bedford Borough decision
Weds 20th March	New Office installed	Whole school	DS RM	Please help us by keeping visits to the office to a minimum— thank you
Fri 22 nd March, 2.30pm	YR Class Assembly	YR	CD	
Mon 25 th March	Class Photos	Whole school	DS	
Mon 25th March	Visit from the Ambulance Service	Whole School	MS	
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
Sat 30th March	PSA Mother's Day bouquet making	Whole school	PSA	See flyer
Mon 1st April	Spring Walk	Robins	CD	See separate letter
Weds 3rd April	Pupil Governors Cake Sale after school	Whole school	CD	
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 5th April	MUFTI to celebrate end of term	Whole school	MS	
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			

Term Dates 2019-2020

Term 1
Monday, 2 nd September – Friday, 18 th October INSET Monday, 2 nd , Tuesday 3 rd September
HALF TERM – MONDAY, 21st – FRIDAY 25th OCTOBER
Term 2
Monday, 28 th October – Friday, 20 th December
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 23rd DECEMBER – FRIDAY, 3rd JANUARY
Term 3
Monday, 6 th January – Friday, 14 th February INSET Monday, 6 th January
HALF TERM – MONDAY, 17th – 21st FEBRUARY, 2019
Term 4
Monday, 24 th February – Friday, 3 rd April
EASTER HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 6th – FRIDAY, 17th APRIL
Term 5
Monday, 20 th April – Friday, 22 nd May INSET Monday, 20 th April
HALF TERM – MONDAY, 25th – 29th MAY
Term 6
Monday, 1 st June – Friday 17 th July

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and school staff with the information they need to build an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they wish to do so. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe young adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further advice, tips and links to other resources.

TikTok date: 10/10/19
Last date: 08/10/19

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover funny and memorable moments in their video clips. Typically about 15 seconds long, videos can be 'spiced up' with special effect filters, stickers, music and sound effects. Currently one of the world's most popular apps, TikTok was formerly known as Musical.ly, before it was rebranded by the Chinese company ByteDance that acquired it in November 2017. If your child had previously had a Musical.ly account, all of their videos and personal settings will have automatically been moved to TikTok. In early 2019, TikTok was hit with a record \$5.7m (£4.2m) fine in the US over child data privacy concerns for its record keeping while under the Musical.ly brand.

What parents need to know about TIKTOK

ONLINE PREDATORS

By default, users account are automatically set to public, which means that their content is accessible to anyone. TikTok encourages users to share creative expression, which has led to a large number of videos being shared online. However, if a user's profile is public, anyone can view their videos, comment on them and share them. This means that anyone can see a child's videos, even if they are not a friend or family member. This is a concern because it means that anyone can see a child's videos, even if they are not a friend or family member. This is a concern because it means that anyone can see a child's videos, even if they are not a friend or family member.

IN-APP PURCHASES

As with many apps, there is a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual gifts to be used to support their favourite creators. These gifts can be purchased with real money, which means that children can spend real money on virtual gifts. This is a concern because it means that children can spend real money on virtual gifts, which can be a financial risk for parents.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok has been criticised for its content, which can be inappropriate for children. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health.

BEING INFLUENCED

Many users on TikTok are teenagers, which means that children can be influenced by their content. This is a concern because it means that children can be influenced by their content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be influenced by their content, which can be harmful to their mental health.

Top Tips for Parents

DISCUSS THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your child to think carefully about what they share online. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see any inappropriate content on TikTok, report it to the platform. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health.

USE THE DIGITAL WELLBEING SETTING

Use the digital wellbeing setting to limit your child's screen time. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health.

DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

Discuss with your child the risks of in-app purchases. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health. This is a concern because it means that children can be exposed to inappropriate content, which can be harmful to their mental health.