



Newsletter

22nd March, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

It's been a really tough week with lots of sickness around the school affecting large numbers of children and staff—on Tuesday, I sent 4 members of staff home because they really were too unwell to be at school. Whilst we do encourage good attendance, encouraging children to come into school when they have a slight cold or cough, at the moment, we are asking parents to keep children away from school if they are displaying any signs of sickness—headaches, colds, coughs, general malaise. If your child vomits at home, you must always keep them off school for at least 48 hours anyway. Thank you so much for your support with this—we need to all work together to try and limit the risks of spreading whichever viruses are present in school.

Many of you will have seen the changes to the office space in the main foyer. Unfortunately, our contractors have messed up a bit and have only completed half the work—things are in hand to finish things off shortly, but it is clear that the final move will be delayed. However, when it does get finished, it will make such a positive difference to the environment.

On Tuesday, Year 4 enjoyed a Mayan Day—they came dressed as members of the Mayan civilization, made Mayan inspired food and played Mayan games. It was a fantastic day, one which I'm sure the children will never forget, and I know they learnt loads about this fascinating ancient civilization. Thank you Mr Renzi for planning such a great day!

Also on Tuesday, Year 6 took part in a special performance of Joseph at the Corn Exchange, along with other Year 6 and 7 pupils from Bedford Schools. It was a long, hot day for them, but they sang with such confidence and commitment—I was particularly proud to hear that they stood out because they clearly knew their singing parts so well and their behaviour was exemplary. Well done, Year 6, we're so proud of you!

Next Monday, our photographer is visiting to take class photos—please remember we need your consent for your child to be included in these, so please return your permission slips. If we haven't received your consent, then your child will not be included in the photos. Also coming up in the next week: an ambulance visit (so don't panic if you see an ambulance at the school on Monday!), Y5/6 football matches, KS1 SATs information meeting for parents, special tennis lessons for Robins & Whinchats, Book Blink and Mothering Sunday bouquet making—check the diary for all details, it's going to be a busy week.

Very best wishes for a healthy and restful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Contacting the School Office

Please help Dawn & Rosie help you in the best way possible by:

- Giving letters, permission slips, trip money etc to your child to hand in to their class teacher
- Leaving messages regarding absence on the telephone (rather than ringing through to the office)
- Ensuring last minute or urgent messages are passed on via telephone, rather than email (the office email is not monitored constantly throughout the day)
- Remembering that the office is open 8.30-4.00 most days (after 4.00, there might not be anybody available to answer the door)



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

Eco-Echoes

A few weeks ago, Toby wrote a letter to Ms Soulsby about his concern regarding the use of plastic in school. As a result of this, we have set up an action group, consisting of one child from each class, to see how we can work together to make a difference to the way our school looks after the environment. The children decided on the name Eco-Echoes for this action group.

Toby, along with Abyan, Ryan, Henry, Jessica, Oliver and Charlotte met last Friday, and for their first project, they decided to address the issue of plastic bottles. Eventually, we'd like to see the use of plastic bottles end, but to kick start our school's thinking, we are going to collect plastic bottle tops, which very often are not re-cycled, and then use them to create pictures and recycling bins. We have noticed lots of plastic bottles just get thrown on the ground, creating litter, so when we see them, we will pick them up and put them in the bin, bring in the bottle top to our collection. In the main entrance is a big bin, which we'd like to fill with bottle tops in the next few weeks—please help. Here are some pictures of the sorts of things we might use them for:



PSA News

Thursday's PSA meetup (14th March) had an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G turnout! Even with the odds stacked against us with the windy, rainy conditions.

Thank you to everyone that was able to join. This meetup was full of positive ideas on the planning and setting up of those crucial events that will raise funds for the school and our children.

By coming to a meetup you do not have to sign up to tasks, everyone understands how busy life is. Attending and sharing ideas would be welcome too, or pass on your ideas via Classlist. It is a fantastic way to support the school. At our last meeting, we agreed and are working on the following fund raising activities:

Mothering Sunday event

Children's Disco

Grown-Ups Disco

Summer Fayre

Quiz Night

Bake Sales

Come join us at future meetings, see if anything interests you. Or reach out to us on Classlist.

Caz Bargery



Easy Fundraising

No-one joined last week—we still only have 51 registered supporters. This is free money! Please join now.

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

Worried about your online behaviour, or somebody else's? We can help you, just as we've helped thousands of others.

Access Anonymous Help

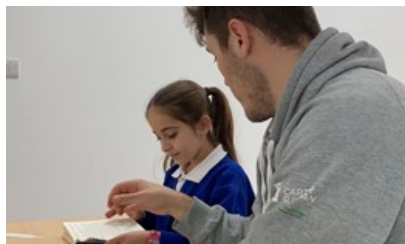
<https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/> - support and advice from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused.

St James' features in the most recent Bedford Blues newsletter:



February Team of the Month - St James' CE VA Primary School

St James' Primary have been a constant in the Blues Community calendar, so it was fantastic to welcome many pupils, accompanied by parents and teachers, at the Blues home game vs London Irish last month to form the Autoglass Guard of Honour. First team players Camilo Parilli-Ocampo, Hayden King and Ed Coulson joined the group for a Q&A, training session and tour of Goldington Road.



Benson Soccer Schools Half Term Football Academy

Benson Soccer Schools, in conjunction with Bedford Town FC are excited to be delivering an Easter Football Academy aimed at boys & girls aged 4-13. We have an Eagles group, for children aged 4-8. This will be a simple introduction to technical football skills, while also enhancing the physical and social sides of the children with fun games.

The older Eagles session, for children aged 9-13 will look to further enhance core skills while still maintaining fun and learning in equal measure.

The course and sessions will be run and delivered by ex-professional (Luton Town, Charlton Athletic, Swindon Town) footballer Paul Benson. Holder of the UEFA A License, FA Youth Award & experienced in coaching at the Luton Town Academy he will be on site to make sure all children are having fun and learning new skills and techniques.

The week will be packed with fun games, matches, exciting prizes and special guest visits at the end of the week to present the trophies. Every child that competes through the week will receive a certificate and gift.

WHERE?
Bedford Town FC
Meadow Lane
Bedford
MK44 3LW

WHEN?
8 April 2019 - 19 April 2019

WHAT?
Boys & Girls aged 4-13
9am-3pm
Daily Rate £15
Weekly Rate £60
2 week special rate £100

HOW DO I BOOK?
Facebook: Bens9n Soccer School
Email: paulbenson14@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone: 0776222343
Deposit required to secure place

BEDFORD BLUES EASTER HOLIDAY RUGBY CAMPS

BLUES BACK 2 BASICS EASTER RUGBY CAMP
AT BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL
TUE 9 APR
WED 10 APR
THU 11 APR

BLUES EASTER EGG RUGBY CAMP
AT GOLDINGTON ROAD
TUE 16 APR
WED 17 APR
THU 18 APR

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

£25 A DAY 9AM-3PM
£60 FOR ALL 3 DAYS
EARLY DROP OFF / LATE COLLECTION
JUST £5 EXTRA

WWW.CLUBS-HUB.COM/BEDFORD-BLUES-COMMUNITY

BEDFORD BLUES COMMUNITY

Important Dates for the Term Ahead

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Mon 25 th March	Class Photos	Whole school	DS	
Mon 25 th 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
Thurs 28th March	Tennis sessions	YR, Y1	Class Teachers	In school time—please remember PE kit
Fri 29 th March 3.00pm	Book Blink	Whole school	Class Teachers	Please aim to be finished by 3.30pm
Sat 30 th March	PSA Mother's Day bouquet making	Whole school	PSA	See flyer
Mon 1 st April	Spring Walk	Robins	CD	See separate letter
Weds 3 rd 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 5 th 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, 2nd September – Friday, 18th October
INSET Monday, 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 21st – FRIDAY 25th OCTOBER

Term 2

Monday, 28th October – Friday, 20th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 23rd DECEMBER – FRIDAY, 3rd JANUARY

Term 3

Monday, 6th January – Friday, 14th February
INSET Monday, 6th January

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 17th – 21st FEBRUARY, 2019

Term 4

Monday, 24th February – Friday, 3rd April

EASTER HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 6th – FRIDAY, 17th APRIL

Term 5

Monday, 20th April – Friday, 22nd May
INSET Monday, 20th April

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 25th – 29th MAY

Term 6

Monday, 1st June – Friday 17th July