



Newsletter

29th March, 2019

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This Week at St James'...

Unfortunately, Mrs Hawkins has continued to be unwell this week, although we're hoping she'll be back next week. Around the rest of school, the virus which has been going round seems to be dying down a bit, but please do continue to monitor your child and if they do complain of symptoms such as headaches and coughs, please consider keeping them away from school—thank you.

You may have noticed that the office furniture is now in place—we're just completing the last little bits of re-wiring and then Dawn and Rosie will be able to start moving across. The current office will then be transformed into a Deputy & Assistant Heads office, as well as providing a workspace for teachers when they are carrying out their planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA).

Many thanks to Matt Kostuch for bringing his ambulance into school on Monday—the children really enjoyed having a look around at all the kit; of course, the siren was the most exciting part! It was great for them to be able to learn more about the mysterious inner workings of an ambulance. He's hoping to be able to come back at some point and repeat the experience for the older children.

Next week is the last week of what has been a long term—hopefully the sunshine today is a sign of good weather to come as we move towards Easter. Monday is April Fools' Day, so I'm expecting lots of (safe, appropriate) pranks, and the week ends with our Easter Service, do come along if you are able. As a thank you for all their hard work and efforts this term, children may come to school on Friday in their own clothes—they really have been working hard and should feel so proud of all their achievements!

Of course, Sunday is a very special day for all you mums, grandmothers, aunties, older sisters, carers—you are all amazing women and have our utmost respect and gratitude for all you do—I hope you enjoy a lovely day, being spoilt by your families—Happy Mother's Day :-)

With very best wishes,

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)

Cycling to School



The School allows children to bring their bike to school, but only if they wear a helmet. DO NOT let your child cycle to school if they do not wear a helmet, or we will refuse this permission. There are no exceptions made. This video shows the difference a bike helmet can make:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skzmeqPbSUU>



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

Eco-Echoes



Thank you for your bottle tops, our bin is starting to fill—keep them coming please!



Head Lice are a common problem in all schools, and St James' is unfortunately no exception. Please check your children's hair every week, and if you find any evidence of head lice, please take appropriate action! All parents should be doing this on a regular basis (we suggest checking every week) - ignoring the problem makes it impossible to keep St James' a nit free school. Regular combing will help reduce the numbers of eggs in your child's hair. Some useful advice and resources can be found here: <https://www.chc.org/>



PSA News

Don't forget the Flower Arrangement Workshop tomorrow! Thank you for all your old coins—please keep them coming!

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 4th April, after drop off in the mobile—please come along.

BEDFORD PARK PROMS - 28th July 2019

Are you going to this years proms in Bedford Park? Sarah Fox (Mary & Susanna's auntie) is the soloist & the other soloist is Wynne Evans from the Go Compare adverts!

The St James' PSA have been given the opportunity to sell proms tickets, of which we then receive a donation to put towards the school.

It should be a fantastic evening! If you're buying tickets, or if you have friends or family who are please let them know that so they can support our school at the same time.

We will publish the details on how to book through us as soon as possible!



Easy Fundraising

Thank you to the people who have signed up for Easy Fundraising, we now have 56 registered supporters, but need more! 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.

How it works: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn2dsQGAe_w

In the last month, we've raised just under £3, simply by using Easy Fundraising—that's £3 of **free money**!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjamespsa/>



Pupil Governor News

Firstly, we would like to welcome Lily to our Pupil governor team - you have already started to share your ideas with us!

Next week on **Wednesday 3rd April** we are holding a cake sale outside Robins' classroom. The money we hope to raise will allow us to buy some new resources for each class or the playground. Please help us by donating cakes that we can sell. Please bring these into school next week on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

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

Coming Up at St James' Church, Biddenham



Dawn Until Dusk

We have had another lovely term with some great activities and lots of fun at Breakfast and After school club. Easter activities have been one of our main themes, including making a beautiful large painting using children's hand prints to make chicks and daffodils which is displayed on a board in the main hall, paper plate sheep, card daffodils, lambs and chocolate cornflake cakes.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from a young lamb who was just 11 days old this week and was brought to us from a local farm by an area manager. The children loved this and were very enthusiastic and also very gentle and quiet asking some great questions.

Next Thursday we will be having our end of term party in the afternoon until 5.30pm. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to seeing you at club.

Important Dates for the Term Ahead

| Date & Time | Event | Classes Involved | Staff Lead | Special Notes |
|--|---|------------------|------------|---|
| 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 | | | |



Welcome to Spectrum Support!

These are the last support group dates for this academic year, but we will be back after the summer holidays!!

The aim of the group is to offer advice and support for parents/carers, as well as signposting to other relevant services. We want to empower and instil confidence in parents/carers in order to help them understand how the diagnosis affects their children so that they are better able to advocate for them, as well as helping them to navigate their way through all of the 'professional jargon'!!

During some sessions, we will have guest speakers in to discuss various topics pertaining to different aspects of your child's diagnosis.

FACES, Church Lane Community Centre, Church Lane, Bedford, MK41 0PW

10am-12pm

Tuesday 12th March 2019

Friday 5th April 2019

Friday 10th May 2019

Friday 14th June 2019

Friday 5th July 2019

Child Development Centre, Hill Rise, Kempston, MK42 7EB

10am-12pm

Friday 29th March 2019

Friday 26th April 2019

Thursday 23rd May 2019

Friday 28th June 2019

Friday 19th July 2019

Children are welcome, however, we would like to politely remind parents that they are their responsibility.

Why not come along and be around like minded people facing similar challenges, and share your knowledge, experiences, hopes and fears in a confidential, non-judgemental environment?

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Light refreshments will be provided.

Please keep an eye out on our Facebook page, [Spectrum Support](#), for updates or contact FACES on 01234 270601 or stacey@facesbedford.org.

Of all the rights of women,
the greatest is to be a mother.

-Lin Yutang-

Safeguarding at St James'

A reminder that all staff at St James' have a legal duty to be alert to any signs of child abuse or matters regarding children's well-being. All staff have received training and will make referrals to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) whenever they note anything of concern. The DSL will then make a decision about next steps, which will often involve taking further advice from Children's Social Care, who may direct the school to make a referral to their service. It is not the School's responsibility to investigate concerns, although staff may be asked to speak with children further.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Maria Soulsby, and we also have two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Sarah Morton and Ian Leach. We have all been trained to a higher level, and you can talk to any one of us should you have any concerns or questions.

You can also seek advice from professionals by contacting the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 01234 781700 (out of hours emergency 0300 300 8123)

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS, and by working together, we can help to ensure our children thrive.

'It takes a village to raise a child'