



Newsletter 6.10.17

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This week at St James'...

Week 5 of term and October already, summer is well behind us as Autumn leads us through the year. This has been a great start to the year—our new staff have settled in brilliantly, as have all our new children and families, and your children are showing great levels of energy, enthusiasm and great thirsts for learning. Particularly pleasing are the number of positive comments from Robins parents about how well their child is settling into school life; that's really lovely to see and hear.

This week has all been about the 'Growth Mindset', using the research of Professor Carol Dweck to support children in understanding that intelligence/ability isn't fixed, and that our brains are wired to achieve great things, and we have no idea just how much our brains are capable of learning. Many of you will be came in to see classes in action this morning, but if you want to know more, have a look at this 10 minute TED talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve

Our Year 3 and 4 classes enjoyed their bikeability sessions this week, fortunately the weather was kind to them. We're happy for children to ride their bikes to school, but only if they wear a helmet. We were visited by a group of trainee teachers from Biddenham School, who were blown away by what they saw here—your children are impressive!

Robins children are visiting Natasha and Michael Fox's home today to find out all about apple pressing; it's great that we are able to join in local crafts and learn about our local area—thank you!

Next week, we will be visited by teachers from the Bedford Nursery Federation to see the great practice in Robins, where staff are developing 'planning in the moment' strategies. It's really good to be able to share our practice more widely across the Borough. Our PSA AGM is on Monday—please come and join us and show your support for this hard working, amazing group. Canaries have their first trip of the year, so please make sure you return your permission forms. From Thursday, our Book Fair is with us in Robins classroom. Do come along after school—every book you buy for your child will help to buy a new book for our library, so it's a win-win for us all!

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,
Maria Soulsby



Congratulations!

Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Moment this week is awarded to Maya—Maya was a brilliant Head Teacher for the day on Wednesday and organised an inspection of the school with her leadership team brilliantly—see her report later in this newsletter. Well done, Maya, I think you may have put me out of a job!

Head Lice

Schools are notoriously vulnerable to outbreaks of headlice and St James' is no different. We're getting some reports of outbreaks this week, so please could EVERY family check EVERYONE'S hair this weekend, and treat accordingly? If we all check regularly and treat, then we can keep them out of St James'.

From the Head Teacher....

4th October 2017

Dear Parents,

As you know I have been Head Teacher for the day. I have some new ideas for the school which I think the children will benefit from. Here are some of my ideas;

Debating Club

Dancing Club

Table Tennis Club

Pop Singing Club that could be turned into an X Factor Competition which could also be a fund raiser.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know what your thoughts are.

I am very impressed with the children's behaviour whilst I was inspecting the school. I saw good manners respect and the children showing the Rainbow Promise.

Yours sincerely

Maya Kalirai
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Review

4th October, 2017

As you all know I am Head Teacher. I have done a school inspection and have had to choose a leader ship team. I had to choose one person from each class. The people that I chose were Ava, Isaac, Jack, Hetty and Mary. I and my leader ship team had to inspect every class.

The things that we found out is that some children want more challenging work. Something that we need to improve on is keeping the cloak room more tidy and also keeping the toilets more tidy too. When I was inspecting the school I discovered that some classrooms were untidy and we're putting their books in the bookshelf the wrong way round. The things that I did like was that people in the classrooms were showing the rainbow promise and helping each other on their work.

When we were inspecting the classes we asked some of the children if they enjoyed coming to school and if they enjoyed learning. Some of the Robins said "I am enjoying school because I am learning how to make new friends." In Winchats people said "I enjoy coming to school because I get to do work." People in Green-Jays said "I enjoy coming to school because the work makes me think." People in Canaries said "I enjoy coming to school because it challenges their brains." Kingfishers said "I like school because in maths we're doing money and decimals and its hard but at the same time fun." In Peacocks people said "I like school because today we are doing computing and learning about Wikis and it's very interesting."

The children's behaviour towards one another is very good. Whenever someone is trying to speak, they will listen to one another. Then we asked children if they feel safe most of the children said that they feel safe and that the safety is also very good.

Overall, I think our school is doing well, children are kind and willing to help each other, and they are keen to learn lots!

Maya Kalirai
Head Teacher for the Day

Rainbow Moment

My child has shown the Rainbow Promise in the following way at home:

Signed



Easy Fundraising

If you aren't using this yet, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE sign up and use [Easy Fundraising](#) EVERY time you shop online. Especially Christmas shopping!

It really is easy, and every time you shop online, you raise money for the school.

A 'how to' guide can be found on our website on the [PSA page](#)



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SEE YOU THERE

St James Primary School
Main Road
Biddenham MK40 4BD

Thursday 2 November 2017
7.00 - 9.00pm
BODEN.COM



St James' Primary School PSA warmly invite you to join our 80s themed disco at The Bedford Golf Club, Great Denham, on **Saturday 25th November 2017** from 19.30 to midnight.

Tickets are priced at just £20 which includes entry to the event, DJ entertainment, finger food, glass of Prosecco and a raffle ticket.

The raffle prize is a trolley full of alcohol!

If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Maria Krailing on 07912 027 973 or maria@tyrrellblois.com

Well done to all the children who led last week's Harvest Service at Church! You were BRILLIANT!



Pupil Governor News

Thank you to all children who went for the role of Pupil Governor this September. We thought your posters and speeches were inventive and inspiring.

Congratulations to our new Pupil Governors!

Whinchats – Henry and Thomas

Canaries – Kitty and Jamie

Green Jays – Leo and Rebecca

Kingfishers – Max and Giovanni

Peacocks – Matilda. C and Abyan

We have had our first few meetings and are in the process of planning some exciting activities for this year's 'Friendship Week'.

Remember if you have any ideas for Friendship Week please write it in your class suggestion book or speak to your class representatives.



Poppies are also available—suggested donation of 50p, maximum of 2 poppies per child (so that we can ensure we don't run out). Bring donations in from next week.

Book Fair

**Thursday 12th Oct
Friday, 13th Oct**

3.30-4.00

Robins Classroom

Coming Up....

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|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| PSA AGM | Monday | 7.00pm | |
| Canaries Class Trip | Thursday | | |
| Book Fair | Thursday, Friday | 3.30-4.00 | |
| Book Blink | Friday | 3.00 | |
| Parents' Evenings | Tues 17th, Weds 18th | | Appointment Sign Up sheets will be on classroom doors from Monday afternoon. |
| Y3/4 Multi Sports | Weds 18th | | |
| INSET | Fri 20th | | School Closed for Children |

BedPop presents Fun Palaces

On Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th October, hundreds of Fun Palaces will pop up all over the world, bringing hands-on art, science and culture to the heart of communities. This year, nine BedPop Fun Palaces will be popping up all over Bedford town centre with dozens of FREE events for all the family. We've got science experiments, animation activities, engineering challenges, theatre and DJ workshops, performances and more. There is going to be so much to see and do and everything is completely FREE. Everything takes place in and around Bedford town centre on **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th October**. Some things will need to be booked but there are plenty of activities you can take part in on the day.

Of course, the most important thing to do at a Fun Palace is to have FUN! We look forward to seeing you there!

See the full brochure under our blog at bedpop.co.uk or Facebook @BedPopping