

Newsletter 19.1.18

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This week at St James'...

This week, we have struggled a bit with a rather nasty sickness bug. Mrs Warren has been away from school all week and other staff and children have been absent due to sickness. Please remember that Health advice is that children who suffer from vomiting or diarrhoea sickness should stay away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness; this is the best way in which we can ensure that the sickness bugs do not spread. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

As we start to plan for the final stages of our transition to Primary School status, we will begin our recruitment for a new teacher next week. Building plans are in the final stages and we hope to be able to write to you soon with specific details. As part of the transition, Governors have been considering possible changes to uniform—a consultation letter is coming out today, please do let us know your thoughts.

Please rest well this weekend, we don't want anyone else to suffer from the nasty sickness bug!
With very best wishes,

Maria Soulsby

Congratulations!



Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Moment this week is awarded to Kai—I have been very impressed with Kai's attitude towards school and his learning lately, and as a result, I can see his confidence really growing. Well done, Kai, keep it up!

At home, Owen has just been fantastic, and has kept smiling during some tough times—well done Owen, you're a very special boy!



Follow St James': [@StJamesHead](https://twitter.com/StJamesHead)

Coming Up...

Tuesday 23rd PSA meeting 9.00 School Library—all welcome

Weds 24th Whinchats Toy Workshop

Thurs 25th Open Afternoon
Messy Church

Friday 26th Green Jays/Peacocks Sleepover

Arts Week

22 – 26th January

Our theme this year for 'Arts Week' will be 'Biddenham'. Classes throughout the school will be practising various skills in line with National Curriculum. Reception will be building model villages, Year 1 will be focussing on water colours and looking at Monet, Year 2 will be sewing, Year 3 will be collaging, Year 4 will be using natural dyes to tie dye material and Year 5 will be painting for mood. All these skills will be linked to Biddenham in some way! English and Maths will also tie in with the theme of 'Biddenham' this week.

On Thursday 25th, from 2pm, please join us for an 'Open Afternoon', a chance to join in with some of the art skills your children are learning this week!

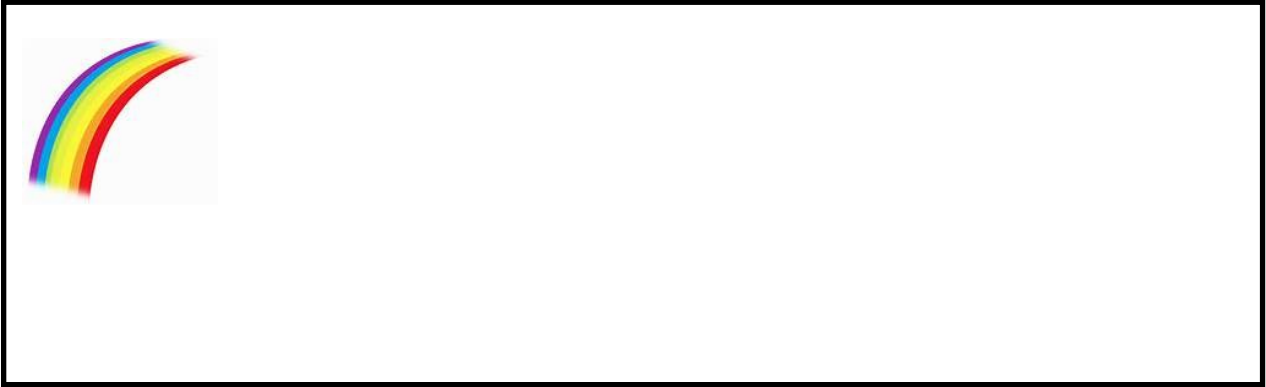
New Dates

8th February Y2 Fire Service Visit

Rainbow Moment

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

Signed



Smear for Smear Campaign—a special message from Mandy Humphrey

Saramanda's will be supporting Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust with their Smear or Smear campaign. The idea of it is to post a selfie of yourself with smeared lipstick and then post it to our Facebook page. There is a text donate of CCPW18 if people want to donate, and we are selling raffle tickets where we have some amazing prizes: Top prize is a pair of straighteners, vouchers, beauty hampers, golf, Champagne.

So if any of you would like to support us, please post a selfie to the shop FB or Instagram page, links can be found here: <http://www.saramanda1.co.uk/>

The idea of the campaign is to raise awareness to encourage women to go to their cervical screening appointments.

My Story - I went for my smear test on September 27th this year. I was contacted a few days later for an appointment at Bedford Hospital. On the 3rd Of October I walked into the Consultant's room and from the minute I was there I realised that this was more than just abnormal cells. My first question to the Consultant was 'Do you think I have cancer', to which he replied 'Yes'. Several horrendous tests later along with biopsies and an MRI scan it was confirmed that I have stage 1b cervical cancer. Within a few weeks I underwent a Radical hysterectomy at Adenbrooks hospital, six weeks on and I am currently Cancer free but will be monitored for sometime.

I did not have a smear test for about 7 years. My reminder letters sat on the side, when I did book the tests I cancelled them due to work commitments. I basically used any excuse not to go, because to be honest, they are unpleasant. I worked on the theory that 'It would never happen to me'. Well how wrong could a girl be!!

When I had my meeting with the consultant at Bedford and the specialised cancer nurse Lesley, she told me to stop using Dr Google. She named two sites that would give me honest information, Macmillan and Jo's Trust. I found Jo's Trust particularly helpful with facts, and advice, answering all the questions I needed answering.

I am one of the lucky ones, but I want to shout from the roof tops the importance of going for screening. I want to make sure that ladies do not turn into me putting it off and off. I want to ensure that no one has to go through the difficult conversations, from telling my Dad to telling my 9 year old that mummy has cancer, convincing everyone that everything is going to be ok to make them feel ok about the diagnosis when inside, however many times you say it, there is still that element of doubt. I want to make sure that no-one is pacing the floor at two o'clock in the morning fearing the worse waiting for test results, and I want to make sure the choice of having children is not taken out of women's control by this horrific disease that is preventable just from screening.

The 'Jade Goody' effect has well and truly ended on screening and 1 in 4 women do not attend appointments. Please help me spread the word on the importance of not making the same mistakes I did.



Bedford Junior Chess Club

is restarting on
Thursday 25th January 2018

at the
King Room, Clarendon Street, Bedford
(next to Bedford Modern School swimming pool)

from
6:00 to 7:30pm, Thursdays in term time

£3 per session

Ages 8 to 14 – all abilities welcome

BedfordJuniorChessClub@gmail.com
<http://www.bedfordchess.co.uk/junior-club>




'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs
Enjoy dinner for all the family

Thursday 25 January
4.30pm – 6.00pm
St James' School, Biddenham

Sunday 28 January
4.00pm – 5.30pm
All Saints Church Hall, Kempston

For children of all ages (accompanied by an adult)

Free – No need to book – Just come along!

Everybody Welcome!

St James's Church, Biddenham
All Saints Church, Kempston

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

Jazz Concert

with
Nikki Iles

Jazz pianist and composer
Winner – 2017 British Jazz Awards for Piano

- with Bedford School Jazz Trio and friends

Saturday 3rd March 2018, 7:30pm
St James's Church, Biddenham
Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AR

Drinks and snacks in the interval

Admission:
£10 each (£8 for members of The Friends of St James)
Children under 16 free

Contact:
- Chris Haydn Jones (01234 211759)
- Diana Shooter (01234 213305)

In aid of The Friends of St James
- the charity which helps conserve the church, churchyard and barn for future generations

BOLD: Bedfordshire Opportunities for Learning Disabilities
presents

Heart and Music



Musical Director: Malcolm Crane

A varied programme of lighthearted music and songs from swing, film, folk and show-tunes, to original compositions and amusing poetry

Saturday 17th March 2018, 7:30pm

Biddenham Village Hall
Noddery Way, Biddenham MK40 4BU

- with drinks and light refreshments in the interval
- Introduction to BOLD by Paul Sutherland, Capital Appeal Manager

Admission £10 each. To book, contact:

Peter Leverkus: 01234 353662 / 07767 824787 - peter@leverages.plus.com
Ann Collett-White: 01234 266039 / 07989 837819 - ann@simts.org.uk



Payment Diversion Fraud

The purpose of this alert is to provide knowledge and prevention advice to schools and parents of students in order to prevent them from falling victim to payment diversion fraud – a fraud that involves falsely creating or diverting payments.

ALERT CONTENT

Payment Diversion Fraud

Fraudsters are placing themselves in the middle of transactions between parents and private schools. The fraudster contacts the parents outlining details and payment instructions for the latest school fees. Initial contact appears to primarily be made via email and often from the school's own compromised email system. However the NFIB has also seen instances where the email address used is similar to that of the school (i.e. nn instead of an m).

The victim then makes the required payment into the bank account which is in the control of the fraudster. By the time the fraud has been identified, the funds have already been dissipated.

In several instances there has been a strong social engineering element at play within the email, with the fraudster suggesting a discount on the fees can be obtained if the parents pay early.

PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

School

- Ensure all administration staff are aware of this fraud.
- Ensure staff are aware of protocols regarding not opening links or attachments from unexpected or suspicious emails in the event the email system may get compromised.
- Review password protocols and ensure those that are used are strong, as long as possible and contain a combination of letters as well as numbers and symbols.
- Review internal procedures regarding how the fee payments are requested and ensure these are relayed to the parents so they can easily identify suspicious requests.
- Ensure computer systems are secure and that antivirus software is up to date.
- To help combat "typosquatting" the school could consider registering similar domain names.
- Ensure required security updates to computer systems are completed.
- Consider using a payment gateway for any monies required to be received from parents.

Parents

- Always verify email payment changes in respect of payment fees with the school directly using established contact details you have on file, especially for ones which are not expected or for a different amount than expected.
- Always review requests to changes for payment requests. Check for inconsistencies or grammatical errors, such as a misspelt school name or a slightly different email address.
- Don't be afraid to verify details when being asked to make fee payments into a new bank account.

Governor News

Sadly Helen Essien, one of our parent governors, has decided to step down from the governing body of St James'. Helen was elected to the governing body in 2015, joining our Resources committee and taking responsibility for behaviour, safety and the wellbeing of the school community. In addition, Helen worked on the school's travel plan in preparation for our conversion to primary. On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank Helen for her valuable contribution and commitment to the school.

In the near future, Ms Soulsby will provide details of the parent governor election process. I would encourage you to give careful thought and consideration to standing for election as a parent governor. Although there is a time commitment involved, being a school governor is a very rewarding experience, enabling you to make a real difference to the life and future of the school. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please leave your details at the office or feel free to speak to any member of the governing body when you see them.

Debbie Higham, Vice-Chair of Governors