

Newsletter 9.2.18

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This week at St James'...

Today, we are all wearing bright in order to support CHUMS, our local children's mental health charity. Thank you so much for all your kind donations of support today, which will help vulnerable children and young people across Bedfordshire. We also have our art gallery this afternoon, an opportunity for our children to showcase their artistic skills across the school, all focused on the village of Biddenham. Many thanks to Mrs Doughty and the Pupil Governors for organizing this!

Canaries enjoyed their visit from the Fire Service yesterday, learning lots about the importance of fire safety and the great work of our emergency services.

Yesterday, we were visited by Isabel Davis and Lisa Virnuls, two local headteachers, who carried out an in-depth review of writing across the school. St James' works closely with a group of local schools on a 'Peer Review' project, which is aimed at developing on-going school evaluation and improvement (rather than just relying on an Ofsted inspection every few years). Both Isabel and Lisa are experienced, successful headteachers, and Isabel is a National Leader of Education, and know their stuff! They were blown away by what they saw at St James', and were particularly impressed with the excellent learning behaviour of our children, and saw examples of outstanding teaching, learning and provision across the school. A report will be put together for us to use in order to identify and plan our next steps for writing for the coming term. Staff have worked really hard to address our improvement points from our last Ofsted, and it's really great to see this bearing fruit and making such a difference for all learners.

It's half term Friday! Rest well, everyone, thank you for all your support and friendship over the past term, we all look forward to seeing you after our week of rest!

Maria Soulsby



Congratulations!

Ms Soulsby's Rainbow Moment this week is awarded to Oliver in Robins — Oliver has made a super start to his time in primary school. He has a great attitude to his learning, he always greets me with a smile and blows me away with his in depth knowledge of all things space related. But his enthusiasm isn't just limited to space, and I've seen some great learning from him over the past term, which is just wonderful to see. Well done, Oliver, we're all really very proud of you!

New Dates

20th Feb **PSA Coffee morning**
1st March **Y5 Football tournament @ Lincroft**

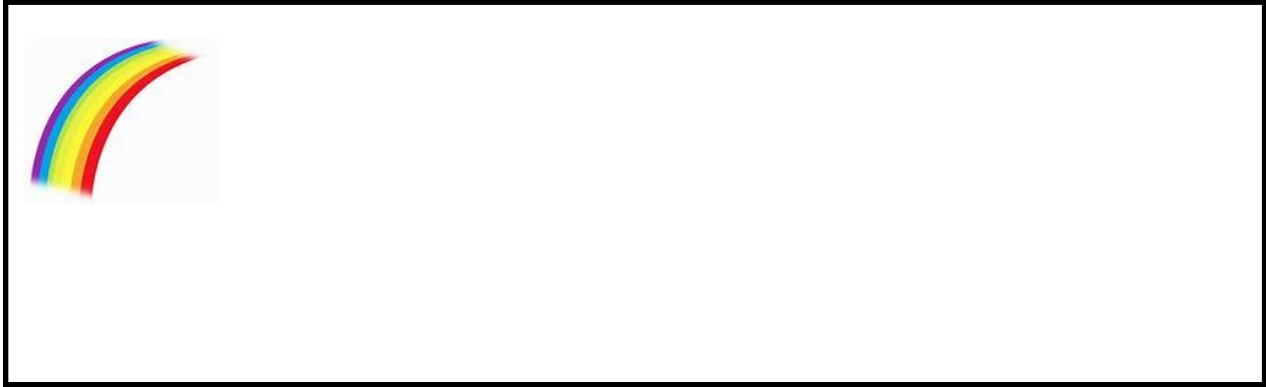
Coming Up

Tuesday 20th	PSA Coffee morning
	Swimming starts Y3,4,5
Friday 23rd	Green Jays trip
	Canaries Class Assembly
1st March	World Book Day & Open Afternoon
2nd March	Whinchats Class Assembly

Rainbow Moment

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

Signed



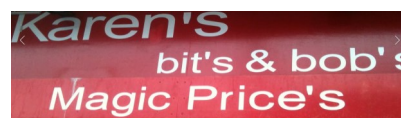
Grammar—Apostrophes

Apostrophes are punctuation marks which show possession or contraction/omission. They might be the most misused type of punctuation!

Apostrophes are used to tell us that something belongs to someone. Singular possession is where there is only one owner, for example Ben's football (there is only one Ben!), Simon's car (there is only one Simon/one car)

If two or more people own something, an apostrophe is needed to show plural possession, which goes after the plural owners. For example, the girls' hats (there is more than one girl)

Here's some real life wrong apostrophe use, can your child spot the mistake/correct it?



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



PSA News—Classlist App

We are delighted to inform you that we've initiated a new, modern parent communication system for the whole school. As many of you will be aware, the school is not able to supply parent contact details due to data protection regulations. Until now, parent reps have had the thankless task of assembling, updating and distributing manual class list spreadsheets. But we now have a more modern solution – the secure digital platform Classlist, which is already operating successfully in many other schools across the UK.

Classlist enables parents to manage and update the information they wish to share with other parents in their own class group. This enables you to email the whole class without cutting and pasting addresses. Your personal details are secure and can only be viewed by your class group and will not be sold or shared with outside parties. You can also set up your own privacy settings. You can also organize social events – such as parent coffees and kids' parties – using the site. Classlist also has a listings service enabling you to find all sorts of useful things from second-hand musical instruments to lost property. We will be using Classlist from now on for all parent-to-parent communications.

We really feel that this will be a fantastic resource for parents, allowing us to better connect & build the parent community. Please note that Classlist should be used in a responsible and appropriate manner—please read the Classlist Etiquette for information.

You can join now by visiting <https://www.classlist.com> and searching for our School. After your request has been validated, you can log in and use the site, either through a web-browser or using an app. There is an iOS app and an Android app available. We believe that Classlist will help to create a welcoming and engaging community amongst our parents and would encourage you to be a part of it. As Classlist will replace and enhance the previous contact list system, if you are an existing parent please note that we will no longer be issuing these lists.

If you have any questions about the system, please contact support@classlist.com or speak to any of the Class Reps.

For your protection, your account will be verified – but once this has been done, you can log in and start using the site. You'll be amazed at how much time and effort this will save all of us!

To celebrate its launch there will be a Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 20th February at 9am at the Three Tuns.** It will be a great opportunity to ask any questions and view a demo of the app. If you cannot attend then the Classlist website has lots of helpful information.

We look forward to seeing you on Classlist!

Classlist Etiquette

Classlist passionately wants to benefit schools and parents: we believe that the school community is one of the most important and useful communities in a parent or a child's life. Classlist believes in the traditional concept of a community as a group of people who help and look out for each other. We hope that Classlist members embrace this approach and behave in an inclusive and supportive manner towards each other. We will never share parents' information with advertisers.

In turn, we expect members:

- **To respect fellow parents, which includes not using their contact details for marketing or professional purposes.**
- **To be honest, authentic, and straightforward in all actions.**
- **Not to share information from the website without the author's permission.**
- **To maintain the privacy and security of the site by creating a unique password and keeping this safe.**
- **Not to use the website to complain about the school or individuals connected with the school.**

Moderators (your school site Ambassadors) track and act upon all member reports, which are made via the 'Report This User' button, visible on every parent's profile.

For a fuller explanation of the behaviour guidelines members must adhere to, please see our terms and conditions at:

<https://classlist.com/membership-terms-conditions.html>

St James' Mobile App

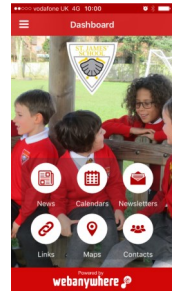
We've had some great feedback about the App—thank you! Have you downloaded yet?

-Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.webanywhere.schooljotter.stjamescofeva5002>

Apple App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/st-james-cofe-va-ls-mk40-4bd/id1227233420?l=pl&ls=1&mt=8>

Alternatively you can search for the app through your app store by typing St James CofE VA LS.

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'Church' with a difference!

Be creative
Have fun
Hear bible stories
Sing songs

Dinner for the children!

Tuesday 20 February
4.30pm - 6.00pm
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Sunday 25 February
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 St James'
CLASSLIST LAUNCH
COFFEE
MORNING



Come along for a Classlist Demo, Chat & Q&A
20/02/18 9AM @ THE THREE TUNS

 Classlist



St James' CE VA Primary School, Biddenham
parent community awaits you

[JOIN NOW](#)

Already accepted and registered?

[SIGN IN](#)

Meet Classlist
The app making parent life easier



Find everyone on
Classlist



Keep in touch with
direct messages



Stay connected with
group posts



Parties and events
made easy



Don't miss
anything