



Newsletter 25.5.18

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This week at St James'...

Well, it must be half term with a Bank Holiday as it appears to be raining! Thank you to all of you who were able to join in with our Maths Missions in class this morning—as always, it's lovely to see you engage with your children's learning in school and they always love to see you in school!

We've enjoyed International Week focusing on the countries which make up the continent of Africa. The children really enjoyed making their African masks on Tuesday; we are grateful to all those parents who contributed to the cost of this workshop, as well as the PSA who subsidized the event so as to keep costs down for the children and school.

Our Year 5 girls took part in the County Finals yesterday—they played incredibly well, facing older and much more experienced teams, and really played their hearts out. They faced many defeats, but kept going—their efforts paid off as they won their last match, which is a great achievement. I'm so proud of their resilience and determination, and sense of sportsmanship and team spirit. Well done, girls, you are CHAMPIONS in our eyes!

Further success this week from our Year 5 class. On Tuesday, they took part in a summer multi-sports event, playing golf and cricket. Our boys came second in their golfing event, and our girls qualified to go into the cricket finals later this term—well done to all! What's really impressive is that even though we are quite a small school, we are mighty in our talent and skill!

Mary's Jumble Sale was a great success—thank you to everyone who came along and supported her and our Pupil Governors. Your support provides great encouragement for the children as they try to make their (and our!) world a better place.

Next week, we head off into our well deserved half term breaks. The building work will continue, and I will be on site during the week to ensure continued progress is made—keep an eye out on Twitter, as I will update with photos as the week progresses. Please remember that Monday, 4th June is an INSET day, so children will return to school on Tuesday, 5th June.

Very best wishes for a happy and peaceful break,
Maria & all the team at St James'

Coming Up....

Monday 4th June	INSET DAY
Tuesday 5th	New Parents meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 6th	Y5 Athletics
Thursday 7th	Class Photos
	Y5 Girls Cricket Finals
Friday 8th	KS1 Summer Multi-Sports
	Kingfishers Assembly 3.00



This week's Rainbow Moment goes to Emma in Robins Class—Emma, I've been talking to your mum and dad this week about how brilliantly you are doing at school. They agree! You're loving your learning, and are a really kind and lovely girls to have in school. You make me smile every morning when I come in to school—thank you for always showing our Rainbow Promise through your enthusiasm and kindness. Keep it up, we're all very proud of you!



Twitter users.....Follow St James': [@StJamesHead](https://twitter.com/StJamesHead)
(daily updates on the build!)

Staffing Update

Today, we say good bye to Miss Buckley, who has worked at St James' as one of our lunchtime supervisors. We're very grateful for her hard work and support for the children, and wish her well in her new role.



Well done to Mary and our Pupil Governors who raised **£170.82** at yesterday's jumble sale for UNICEF. A big thank you to those of you who attended the sale, donated items or made donations!

Governor Update

We have recently said goodbye to two of our Governors: Debbie Higham and Natasha Fox, who have served on the Governing Body for the last 4 years. Their terms of office have come to an end and they have both decided to move on from school governance.

Debbie has been Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, and Chair of the School Improvement Committee, which is responsible for ensuring good outcomes for all our children. Specifically, she has been responsible for monitoring the Pupil Premium grant, development of maths and our recent Achievement for All award. On a personal level, I am very grateful to Debbie, as she was on the interview panel which gave me the job of Head Teacher!

Natasha has been Chair of the Resources Committee, which is responsible for all things financial and premises based. When she and I first joined St James', the financial processes in school were weak and there had been some very weak audit reports. She has worked tirelessly to improve processes and we were recently given a 'substantial' assurance from the auditors.

As well as these responsibilities, Debbie and Natasha were both instrumental in securing the necessary approvals and finances to support our current building project.

I know that the Governing Body is grateful for Debbie and Natasha's hard work over the past few years, and as Head Teacher I can not thank them both enough—a lot is expected of School Governors these days, and they are held to account by OFSTED and other agencies, we all too easily forget they are volunteers. Thank you Natasha and Debbie, for everything you have done for our school and for our children—it really is greatly appreciated by myself and all the staff here!

Maria Soulsby



Want to know more about Instagram? Go to
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/instagram-guide-for-parents/>

GDPR

You will be aware that, with effect from today, there are new regulations governing Data Protection. The new regulations give us all greater control about who can access our personal data, and what can be done with it/shared.

As a School, we keep a large amount of personal data about your child, related to their personal characteristics (date of birth, address, religion etc) and related to their academic progress at school. Most of the data we keep is a statutory requirement of all schools and is shared only with national and local government (DfE, Local Authority, Diocese of St Albans).

We have reviewed and updated our Privacy Notices, and the one relating to parents and children can be found on our website—<http://www.stjamesvalower.org.uk/parents/data-protection>. If you require a paper copy of this, please ask in the office.

Over half term and the coming months, further information will be updated on the school website.

Please be aware of your continued rights:

- You have a right to request access to all the data we hold about you/your child (please always put requests in writing—see revised Data Protection policy)
- You have a right to withdraw any consent given at any time (for example, photograph consent, consent to contact you via email)
- You have a right to ask us to alter, change, amend or delete data we hold; please be aware that this will only apply to non-statutory data, however. If you're not sure, please ask and we will help to explain.
- We will NEVER share your data with anyone other than those we are legally obliged to share data with unless we have consent; we will never sell your email address etc to marketing companies, for example
- All 3rd parties we use or recommend are GDPR compliant and we have copies of their Privacy Statements, eg Mathletics, Marvellous Me
- All data is stored on a staff intranet which is held in an EEC registered Cloud Storage database, accessible only by password. No data will be stored on memory sticks or individual staff laptops.
- We are registered as Data Controller and we know how to report any data breaches to the Information Commissioner.

If at any point, you have any questions, please do ask us.



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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: BECKIE@FLAXBOURNEGARDENS.COM

24TH JULY
MORE DATES TO FOLLOW!

Volunteer for NYAS

- Do you want to make a difference to a young person's life?
- Do you have 1-4 hours per month to spare?

We urgently require more volunteers, so why not volunteer as a mentor/befriender for NYAS as an Independent Visitor for children and young people in care. As a volunteer you will:

- Have fun, take young people on outings and maybe share a hobby, sport or interest
- Offer support and a listening ear and be a positive influence in a young person's life and help build self-esteem and confidence

You don't need any special qualifications

We are looking for reliable and dependable people from all walks of life

We will provide training and on-going support. We will pay expenses to a set limit.

Here is what some of our young people and volunteers have to say about this rewarding role:

- I like how my Independent Visitor isn't anything to do with social services and is here to support me not to judge.
- They have boosted my confidence, now I feel like when I go places I can just relax and have fun.
- My young person always looks forward to me coming, they have had such a disjointed life, I am a stable figure in their life and this has to be important for them as everything else changes around them a lot.

If you are interested, please email Johanne King, IV Co-ordinator at jo.king@nyas.net or call her on 07879 262314. Alternatively visit our website for further details www.nyas.net



Let's Go Pond Dipping

Sunday, 3 June 2018 – 2.30 pm at the village pond

Come along and join the Friends for some pond dipping and discover some of the creatures that live in our village pond. All equipment provided but bring a notebook and pencil, and a camera if you have one, to record your finds.

All ages welcome but **children please bring a responsible adult with you, and no dogs please.**

For more information, contact the:
Chief Dipper – Chris Haydn Jones (Tel: 211759)

The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond
www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond

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Patrons: Dame Margaret Booth, DBE, Richard Hudson, MA, Judith Timms, OBE, Sir William Utting, CBE.
Chief Executive: Rita Waters

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Build Progress this week—we have walls and a roof!

