

Newsletter 8.6.18

office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk
head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk
primary@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

This week at St James'...

Oh my goodness, it's Term 6 already, and the year is very quickly running out!

We enjoyed our INSET day on Monday—our Ward Councillors donated a significant amount of money to the school, which we have used to purchase all sorts of IT equipment so we can develop coding skills across the school—Raspberry Pi, Scratch controllers, K-Nex kits, WeDo Lego, and even a build your own laptop kit—some truly amazing kit. So, on Monday, we had to learn how to use it ourselves! A fair few snags and problems were hit, many were overcome, and some have had to be referred to our ICT support gurus—we were certainly outside of our comfort zones! But, over the coming year, we're going to be able to offer some amazing opportunities for the children.

On Tuesday, Mrs Hawkins had a meeting with our colleagues at Biddenham International School. Because of our building project, we had to reconsider arrangements for our Sports Day, and Biddenham have very kindly offered to not only host Sports Day on their grounds, but also provide us with lots of support from their Sports Leaders. It's great that we can tap into the significant sporting expertise at Biddenham, as well as further deepen our links and friendship with colleagues and students there. Details about Sports Day will be coming home shortly, but essentially the actual Sports Day will be at Biddenham School, and then we will return to St James' for our family picnics.

Sport has been a theme for the week—on Wednesday, Peacocks competed against other schools in various athletics events, on Thursday our Year 5 girls took part in the District Cricket finals, and today our younger children are taking part in a summer multi-sport festival with other schools from the town. All of which take a great deal of time and energy from staff to organize, and are dependent on parents supporting and helping with supervision—Thank you everyone for your commitment!

On Tuesday, we welcomed our new families to their 'welcome to St James'' meeting, ahead of their children starting school in September. We're always excited to meet our new family members, and this year we were joined by a number of different partners who were able to share more information about life in school, including Dawn Until Dusk and Governors.

Next week, our Year 1 children will be taking part in the Phonics Screening check, a standard check to see how well they are progressing with their phonics knowledge, one of the skills needed when learning to read. We keep this very low key for the children, as we use this as a developmental assessment, so there's no need for parents to do anything different at home. On Wednesday, we bid farewell to Peacocks as they head off on their residential trip, which I know they are a little bit excited about! And in amongst all the busyness, the new buildings continue to take shape—do check Twitter for daily updates!

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria Soulsby

This term's Curriculum News will be sent home early next week—Dawn and I have been working on firming up new uniform arrangements and have simply run out of time this week.



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

(daily updates on the build!)



Easy Rainbow Moment for Ms Soulsby this week! There is a little group of Robins children who just make me smile and laugh every single day. Marcy, Isobel, Ella, Emma & Lucy, you just make me smile with your boundless energy and enthusiasm for school, and especially your determination to become fabulous writers. It's just so lovely to see, and every morning you cheer me up and give me a great start to the day. What fabulous children you all are!

Caterlink

If your child is in Year 3, 4 or 5, payment for School meals will be required – please ignore this message if you have already made payments.

Meals are £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Payment can be daily, weekly or half termly/termly.

Payment from Tuesday 5th June up until Friday 20th July totals £73.10. If you have paid the full termly amount of £73.10 and your child is off school, whether it is due to sickness or school trip, your child's account will be credited and you will not be charged for that particular day's school meal.

Please send payment in an envelope clearly stating your child's name and amount enclosed. If you are paying by cheque please make cheques payable to Caterlink.

We have been asked to remind all families that Caterlink provide meals on a pre-paid basis only - all meals should be paid for in advance.

Your school needs you!

Our annual schools competition is back. We're giving one lucky entrant the chance to win £5,000/£5,000 of National Book Tokens for their school - enough to buy hundreds of new books for the library. And just in case that warm, fuzzy feeling isn't enough, the winner also gets £100/£100 of National Book Tokens to spend on themselves!

Accepted in thousands of bookshops and online, National Book Tokens are the perfect way to reward, encourage literacy and inspire a love of books.



Last year's winners

Killmont Primary School in Glasgow won £5,000 of National Book Tokens for their school library in 2017. They said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to hear we have won these book tokens for our library!"

We will be able to significantly refresh our library. Last year we started the process of creating a "dyslexia friendly" section, and a graphic novel section within our library, and the tokens will give us a great boost in promoting these developments, in addition to providing new novels for the entire school."

Thanks and congratulations to John S. from Glasgow, who nominated the school - and got £100 of National Book Tokens all for himself.



PLEASE VOTE FOR ST JAMES'!

Very easy, let's see if we can win £5000 worth of books for our library.

If every parent, grandparent, member of staff, uncle, aunt, governor, work colleague, best friend, neighbour, bloke down the pub voted for us, we could well win!!

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools/#.WxpU7f1dOiM>

(thanks Lauren for the heads up!)

Enter to win £5,000/£5,000 for your school!

First Name *



Is running the Daily Mile really worth it?

https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/may/21/does-running-a-mile-a-day-really-improve-childrens-lives?CMP=share_btn_link

(the answer is yes!)

Thank you Clare, for the link!

This term's Important Dates:

June

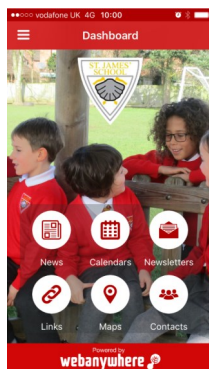
11th	Y5 Tennis competition
13th-15th	Y5 Residential
15th	Book Blink 3.00-3.30
18th	KS2 Tennis
	New Reception children transition visit 3.00
22nd	Sports Day @ Biddenham International School, followed by Family Picnic @ St James'
26th	New Reception children transition visit 3.00
29th	Alternate Sports Day (in case of poor weather on 22nd)

July

2nd	New Reception children transition visit 9.30
3rd	Year 5 Secondary Taster Day @ Biddenham
6th	Year 2 Class Assembly 3.00
9th	Robins Forest School trip to Bromham
10th	Years 3 & 4 visit to Biddenham Pond
	New Reception children transition visit 9.30
	Drop in Parents Evening—to discuss reports 4.00-6.00
12th	Moving Up morning
13th	Year 5 STEM Fair @ Biddenham
16th	New Reception children transition visit & informal family picnic 2.00
17th	Summer Shows Years 1, 3, 4—2.00 & 4.30
18th	End of Year Service @ St James' Church 2.00
20th	End of Term!

INSET Days September 3rd & 4th. Children in Years 1-6 return to school on Wednesday 5th September

School App news...



We've been informed by our App providers that because Apple have changed some of their rules, our App has had to be changed and modified. When you open the app, you will be asked to download the new app, which should be a simple process. Any problems, please let us know!



The Class Smartie Challenge

Next week, every child in the school will receive a packet of Smarties. We are asking the children over the three weeks to do good deeds/tasks at home that will, each time, earn them at least 20p. They can then pop them in their tube and hopefully fill them up.



Good deeds and helpful jobs can be anything, they may include tidying their bedrooms, putting the washing on, help to put shopping away.... anything that you feel is deserving of 20p.

We are asking that they return their, hopefully, full Smarties tube to school by Monday 2nd July 2018. The class which raises the most money (a percentage will be calculated, so will not matter how many children are in the class) will be treated to a movie afternoon, with popcorn and drinks served by members of the PSA

The monies raised will help fund a whole school trip to the theatre, to watch a Christmas pantomime.

The PSA help fund school trips, resources, play equipment, external visitors (such as the african mask painting, zoolab) and can only do this with the support from parents, staff and of course, the children.

We hope we have your full support for the Smarties challenge and as ever want to thank you for your continued support. Any questions, please contact me at the school.

Alison Singh,
St. James' PSA

Before half term...



Now...

