



## Newsletter 15.6.18

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### This week at St James'...

We're a little quiet this week as Peacocks have been away on their residential. All reports sound like the children are having an absolutely fantastic time and enjoying the range of activities provided. We look forward to their return this afternoon, and hearing first hand about all the adventures. As always, I am incredibly grateful to the staff who plan these trips, and give up their own time for the benefit of the children—thank you Mr Leach, Mr Renzi & Mrs Wilding!

On Monday, some of Peacocks children took part in a tennis competition in Bedford. We had two teams, and one of our teams won all their matches and are now through to the County Finals. This is fantastic! For a small school like ours, we are competing against schools which are able to select players from larger year groups (in some schools, as many as 90 in a year group!) - this year, in our first year as a primary school, our talented sports people have qualified for County Finals in Girls' football, cricket and now tennis. This is just so amazing, and clearly demonstrates how talented our children are as well as confirming the importance of ensuring we continue to provide as many opportunities as we possibly can. Well done Peacocks!

On Tuesday, Mrs LeNette and I met with the Local Authority to have our Key Stage 1 Teacher Assessments moderated. This is a Statutory Process; each year a selection of schools are chosen and the aim is to ensure that our judgements are accurate, matched against the statutory criteria set by the Government and that all schools in Bedford are in line with one another. We were really pleased that the Local Authority moderators agreed with all our judgements, which means that our internal processes and procedures are rigorous and effective, and that, most importantly, we know our children well and ensure that they make good progress. Given that our OFSTED Inspection was some time ago now, it's good to have this external validation that as a school, we continue to perform well and are 'doing right' by our children, which gives us all the confidence to keep going!

Next week is a big week—we will be visited by Ben Pearson, who is the new Chief Officer for Education in Bedford—I'm looking forward to sharing everything that is great about our school with him. We also welcome our new Reception children for the first of their transition visits, as we start to get ready for September, and, of course, we have Sports Day on Friday. Sports Day will be a little different this year, but I hope it will still be just as enjoyable—Mrs Hawkins is working very hard behind the scenes to ensure it all runs smoothly. Please come along and support your children (and help us walk them to/from Biddenham School, please!) and then please bring your picnics back to St James' for our family picnic (great views of building work to be had!).

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone,

Maria

A very **Happy Father's Day** to all our lovely dads, step-dads, grandads, uncles, significant others, and all those men amongst you who play such an important part in the lives of our children—have a great day on Sunday! We also remember those wonderful men who are no longer with us with love and gratitude.



**Eid  
Mubar-  
ak!**



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



My Rainbow Moment this week goes to Toby—Toby is such a lovely, funny, caring member of our school family, and he is working so hard in school at the moment, trying his best in everything he does. As a result, he's making super progress and we're all very proud of him. Well done, Toby—keep being brilliant!



We have some fantastic 'Theme Nights' planned for this Term at Dawn Until Dusk. Please keep an eye on our pavement sign for dates which is located next to the main Reception.

**This Friday 15th we have our Minions box.**

**W/B 25th June is our Super Splash theme.** Be prepared to get very wet, so bring along spare clothes. This is great fun, so don't miss out and book early as it is very popular.

**W/B 9th July is our Star Wars Theme night.**

Please speak to Cathy or Sharon if you wish to book your child/ren in for any of the above.

<https://kidsdawntildusk.co.uk/school-school-holiday-clubs-bedfordshire/st-james-lower-school-before-and-after-school-club-dawn-til-dusk/>

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

Killermont 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 \*

**Uniform Update:** Logo design is now complete, uniform provider selected & is now creating the final samples for our approval. We hope to have order details very shortly, along with the big reveal of the new logo, plus a special surprise & gift for all children.

## **This term's Important Dates:**

### **June**

- 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 11.30 (NB Time Correction)**
- 29th Alternate Sports Day (in case of poor weather on 22nd)  
**Kingfishers Trip to Go Ape**

### **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  
**Recorders Workshop @ Biddenham (see separate letter sent home)**  
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
- 19th 2.15—Music Concert—guitars, recorders so far confirmed**
- 20th End of Term!

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

## **Building Update**

