



Newsletter 29.6.18

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This week at St James'...

What a week! The children and staff have coped incredibly well with the hot weather this week, which does look like it might continue into next week. Thank you to those of you who have remembered to send children to school with a sunhat and water bottle, as well as applying suncream in the morning—this has really helped us keep children safe in the sun. Thank you, also, to Alison & her band of helpers—we have all appreciated the Freeze Pops at the end of the day!

With only three weeks left of term, everyone has been busy finalizing plans for the end of year events—end of year reports are being finalized, the summer show rehearsals are in full swing, and we're working hard to complete long term curriculum plans for the coming year, incorporating our new Year 6 curriculum. Dawn is in the final stages of making arrangements for the new uniform—please look out for a letter and Groupcall message next week regarding this.

On Wednesday, Governors scrutinized the end of year results for statutory and non statutory assessments. The statutory results will be published in the Autumn Term, once all verification procedures are completed, but early indications are that we will yet again be achieving results above local and national averages—well done St James'!

Next week is particularly busy for Peacocks class—on Tuesday, they have been invited to attend a Secondary Taster Day at Biddenham International School, which will help give them an insight into what it feels like to be at secondary school. Then, on Wednesday, they will finally be going on their Go Ape trip, which I'm sure will be fantastic!

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria Soulsby



This week's Rainbow Moment is awarded to Ben—Ms Soulsby had just the most lovely moment when she spotted Ben 'entertaining' children in the library. These were children who needed to stay in because they had forgotten their sun hat and we didn't want them getting burnt. Ben picked up a book (St George & the Dragon) and started to read the story, complete with actions and special voices. Much hilarity ensued. It was just lovely to see children of all ages enjoying time together, led by one of our oldest pupils. What a fantastic role model you are, Ben, thank you!

Staffing Update

Despite the current recruitment climate, we are very pleased that we expect to be fully staffed in September, having made excellent appointments to the team. Tazreen Kassim-Lowe, an experienced teacher, joins us from Cambridgeshire and Liam Renzi will be staying with us as a Newly Qualified Teacher, following the completion of his training here. In addition, Pat Tapley will be joining us as a Learning Support Assistant, as well as bringing with him some expert sports skills (he is a Bedford Blues player).

We are delighted to be able to add strength and depth to our teaching team, which means we'll really be able to build upon our current successes and see the school further develop. In due course, children and parents will have the opportunity to meet new staff. Details of classes will be included in the end of year reports to parents.

Governors' Update

We won't get the official results of the statutory tests the children sat this term until the autumn but at our final committee meeting on school standards, the Governors were delighted to note that the provisional results are looking good.

This year Governors have been focusing on writing. We have been in to school to see the teachers and the children in action and we have discussed the strategy at length with staff. At the end of the school year, all the indicators suggest that St James' is well on track to meet its target and the children are making strong progress. This reflects the tremendous work of the staff and of the children. It is also not possible without the strong support of parents who play such an important role in encouraging their child's learning. We really do value your support.

Our final committee also had an update on safeguarding. A Governor has been in to meet the children to hear what they think about being safe at school. You might like to hear some of their comments:

People are kind.

We like coming to school to make new friends.

We are not going to be harmed or hurt.

If someone is being mean or bullying, we can tell a grown-up

We can rely on our friends.

If we get hurt in the playground, we can tell a teacher or a friend who will help.

Finally, we are delighted to confirm that the building work on the three new classrooms is well on track and the rooms are looking fabulous. We're looking forward to formally opening the classrooms next term!

Have a wonderful summer holiday,
The Governors

Our New Logo



Earlier this week, we shared the new logo with the children. We had many really good ideas from the children and have tried to incorporate the most popular ideas into one badge. Lots of children had the idea of placing the shell on top of the existing shield shape, this is a nod to our history as a school. Many children also turned the shell into a rainbow, recognising the arc shape evident in both symbols. The cross was important also, and one child had the idea of having their light shining out of the cross to reflect Jesus' love for us all. The children really like the new logo, as do we, and we hope you do too. Here it is!

There will be a very special sur-prize for every child as a thank you for their ideas and suggestions. More details will be announced next week.

This term's Important Dates:

July	
2nd	New Reception children transition visit 9.30
3rd	Year 5 Secondary Taster Day @ Biddenham
6th	Year 2 Class Assembly 3.00 Year 5 Tennis County Finals
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 Canaries Class Trip to Kempston Outdoor Centre
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



Can you help?

We are currently trying to collect a stash of cycle helmets for use in the EYFS outdoor learning environment. If you have any helmets which your child has outgrown (which are still in good condition and safe to use), would you consider donating them to the school? Many thanks!

Building Update—painting & electrics this week

