



Newsletter

20th September 2019

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Another busy week which just seems to have flown by. Our Robins children have completed their first week of full time days at school, and although I'm sure they'll be a little weary, they have all coped incredibly well and are quickly picking up the new routines and expectations. Well done to them all!

This afternoon, our older children will take part in their first sporting event of the year, visiting Biddenham School to compete in a whole school basketball tournament. We enjoy a strong relationship with our friends at Biddenham, and are always grateful when they open up their facilities for us.

Mrs Morton had a meeting with a representative of B&Q this week—one of our areas of focus for school improvement this year centres around the quality of our Learning Environments. B&Q have agreed to send some volunteers into school to help us re-paint some of our older classrooms, which are not looking their best. Sarah is still finalizing the details, but we're hoping this will happen at some point before the half term break.

Next week, children across KS2 will take part in Bikeability sessions, which will help them learn how to stay safe on their bikes. On Wednesday, we will be welcoming a group of senior leaders to visit St James', as part of a year long project with Peter Pan Teaching School, where we will be sharing the joys and challenges of leading a school in the 21st century. Also on Wednesday, two pupils from Bedford School will begin weekly visits to St James', teaching mandarin to our Year 5 class—as many of you will know, I have wanted to be able to offer this for a long time, so am delighted to have established this relationship. On Thursday, there is an opportunity for parents to attend a workshop about Internet Safety at Ursula Taylor Primary in Clapham—with the rise in children using various types of digital media to communicate with others, this will be an invaluable session for you, giving you strategies to ensure your children to stay safe—I highly recommend this to you all. Also on Thursday, we have the school photographer visiting—please remember to let the office know if you do not want your child's photo taken. Finally, on Friday, please come along to our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and if you want to become a reading volunteer, please come along to the training session in the afternoon.

Today sees the start of the rugby world cup—the highlight of the year so far! For all fellow rugby fans (and non rugby fans!), enjoy the weekend!

Maria & all the team

Punctuality

Numbers of children arriving late to school are rising again.

Children should arrive at school in time to enter classrooms at **8.50** so that registers can be taken and lessons start promptly at 9.00.

Parent Volunteers

We are very fortunate to be so well supported by our families, and this year we're looking to further deepen our relationships with you. We know some of you would be keen to support us further by listening to children read in school. If you can spare an hour or so a week, we'd be very pleased to see you. To find out more, please come to a session with Mr Leach on **Friday 27th, September at 2.30pm**, where he will share strategies to support readers, safeguarding information, and the code of conduct for volunteers. Please note that only parents who come along to this session will be able to volunteer in this activity—this is because we need to ensure that safeguarding information is effectively shared and understood. If there is enough demand, we can run further sessions.

Individual and Sibling Photographs - Thursday 26th September 2019

Every year, we invite a professional photographer into school to take photos of your children. We will be using a company called Tempest to take your child's photograph on Thursday 26th September 2019. We would also take a photograph of siblings within the school.

The photographs are stored on the photographer's computer system as digital images, and a paper copy is sent home to you, for the purposes of ordering. We also store digital copies on our school management system in your child's personal record. We print them only for purposes of supporting your child, for example to share medical information with staff. We do not publish these photos outside of school for any purpose, unless we have your specific approval and consent. Tempest Photography do not share the photos beyond the school.

If for any reason you would prefer the school not to take a school photograph, please either write a note and return to the school office or send an email to office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk advising of your wishes. If we do not hear from you we will assume you are happy for photographs to be taken.

Competition Time!

Competition Title	Details	Prize	Closing Date
STEM—If you were an engineer what would you do?	Open to all years Find a problem, invent a solution, draw itwrite an explanation www.leadersaward.com	Invitation to Award ceremony, all entries displayed at a Public Exhibition	25.3.2020
Step into the NHS—Years 3-6	Say thank you to the NHS, focus on the different types of jobs in the NHS. Creative artwork or creative writing https://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk/primary-schools/KS2-competition	Amazon vouchers Class trip to a local science venue	1.5.2020



Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September from 9.15 to 10.45

Following the success of last year, we are again hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on **Friday 27th September from 9.15 to 10.45**. Everyone is welcome to attend for a coffee, cake, chat and charity raising games! Pupils from a St James class will be helping serve and take donations from all attending.

Any and all donations of cakes (homemade or store-bought) will be gratefully received on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Mrs Lawless & Year 1 are looking for donations of the following:

Offcuts of timber (non-treated) for woodwork
Recyclables- cereal boxes, kitchen rolls, egg boxes, yogurt pots.

Pots and pans, kitchen utensils.

Bucket, spades, dress up clothes/ role play items.

Stopwatches, walkie-talkies, wall map, globe

Any donations gratefully received. Thank you.

We are also looking for any donations of the following:

Old household electrical items, such as kettles, hairdryers, hair straighteners, lamps

Any old plastic kitchen equipment, such as plates, cups and toy food

A child's kitchen for outdoor play

Any old dolls, plastic doll's house

Storage boxes (suitable for outdoors, preferably with lids)

Any writing equipment—paper, pens, envelopes

Donations of (healthy & easy to care for) pot plants

Throws & larger pieces of fabric

Thank you!

Term Dates 2019-2020

Term 1

Monday, 2nd September – Friday, 18th October

INSET Monday, 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 21st – FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

Term 2

Monday, 28th October – Friday, 20th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 23rd DECEMBER – FRIDAY, 3rd JANUARY

Term 3

Monday, 6th January – Friday, 14th February

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 17TH – 21st FEBRUARY, 2019

Term 4

Monday, 24th February – Friday, 3rd April

EASTER HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 6TH – FRIDAY, 17th APRIL

Term 5

Monday, 20th April – Friday, 22nd May

INSET Monday, 20th April

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 25th – 29th MAY

Term 6

Monday, 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Friday, 19th June

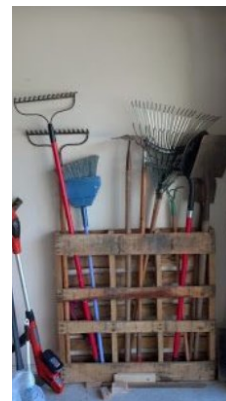
****NOTE DATE CHANGE****

Quiet Garden Development Day

Saturday, 12th October

Please come along and help us develop this area, using pallets to make furniture & planters—we need your energy and enthusiasm! Children can come too!

Some more ideas of what we're hoping to achieve....



Parent Internet Safety Evening Thursday 26th September 6:30pm UTS School Hall



We are hosting a Parent Internet Safety Evening, run by the School Liaison Officers from the Milton Keynes based 'Hazard Alley' Safety Centre. This event is to provide parents with the most up to date information and guidance to support you to keep your children safe when they are online.

It is essential that parents know how to protect their children and at the same time allow them safe access to the information available on the internet.

This evening is for adults only, if you really are unable to attend without bringing your child, they can come to our crèche where a film will be shown and they will be supervised by some staff members.

Please complete the attached form to indicate your attendance and return the form to the school office.

Thank you

TRY tennis FOR FREE

Biddenham Tennis Club

Sunday, 22 September 2019

www.lta.org.uk/tennisweekends



Please contact Ursula Taylor School direct if you would like to attend.

01234 359128



We are collecting Aldi stickers, so please bring these into school, and ask your friends and neighbours if you can have their stickers too!



Information Sheet Starting School 2020

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting school (Year R) for the first time in September 2020 explains how to apply for a lower/primary school place for a child born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/starting-school. It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, Starting School 2020, which explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions.

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer. An application form can be requested from your local Bedford Borough lower/primary school or by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must complete your home Local Authority's application form and return it to them. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 15 January 2020

Starting School Admissions Timetable

October 2019

We will publish information about the Starting School process.

October 2019 – 15 January 2020

You can apply online or you can complete and return a paper application form to the School Admissions Service.

15 January 2020

Last day for applications.

16 April 2020

If you have applied online you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied online we will post a letter to you on this day.

Tours of St James' are available during the Autumn Term—please tell friends and families to give us a call to book a date.

NEON PARTY!

18+

08.11.2019
FRIDAY | 8-12PM

The Bedford Golf Club, Great Denham, MK40 4FF

Tickets £20: Welcome Prosecco | DJ Disco | Buffet

Dress Code: Neon

A fundraising evening to raise money for new playground equipment for the children of St James' CE VA Primary School in Biddenham

To purchase tickets or for further information contact Carol-Ann Shup 07799 775468

WARMLY SPONSORED BY

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Event	Date & Time	Class	Staff Lead	Notes
Bikeability	25.9.19	Y3	GH	See separate letter sent home
Individual Photos	26.9.19	All	DS	Siblings in school will also have photos taken
PSA Meeting	26.9.19 9.00am		PSA	See PSA Messages (Classlist)
Fit for Fun	26.9.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
Macmillan Coffee Morning	27.9.19		LU	
Training session for reading volunteers	27.9.19 2.30pm		IL	
Harvest Service	3.10.19 9.30am	Y5,6	IL, TKL	All families invited to attend
Y5 Higgins Museum Trip	4.10.19	Y5	TKL	
Friendship week	7th-11th October	All	CD, SM	
Autumn Book Fair	9th-16th October	All	IL	
MUFTI Beads of Courage	11.10.19	All	CD	Led by Pupil Governors
Book Blink	11.10.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Outdoor Day	12.10.19 10.00	All	MS	Please come and help us develop our outdoor environment
Celtic Harmony	18.10.19	Y3	GH	
Parents Meetings	29.10.19 4.00-8.30pm	All		
Swimming Starts	31.10.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
UK Parliament Week	4th-11th November	All	IL, CD	
Year 6 Height & Weight Screening	5.11.19	Y6	DS	See separate letter sent home
KS2 SATs—Information meeting	5.11.19 5.00pm	Y6	IL	All parents of children in Year 6 should attend
PSA Neon Party	8.11.19 8-12pm		PSA	Adults Disco
Flu Vaccinations	28.11.19	All	DS	
Head Teacher for a Day	29.11.19		MS	Details will be sent home in due course
Christmas Decoration morning	2.12.19 9.00-10.30am	All	CD	Help us get into the festive spirit!
Y2 Winter Wonderland concert	3.12.19	Y2	SP	
Y3 & 5 Music Performances	3.12.19	Y3, 5	GH, TKL	
Pantomime	6.12.19	All	GH	Whole school trip, late return to school
Christmas Jumper Day	13.12.19	All	LR	
Book Blink	13.12.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Christmas Show	17.12.19 2.00, 4.00	YR, 1, 2	CD, FL, SP	
Christmas Service	18.12.19. 9.30am	All	LR, GH	Led by Y3,4; all invited to attend
Christmas Lunch	19.12.19	All	IL	
Carols Round the Tree	19.12.19 4.00	All	SM	
MUFTI	20.12.19	All		

Class Photos	25.2.20	All	DS	
Phonics Information Meeting	25.2.20 5.00pm	YR, 1, 2	SM	Information about how we teach phonics and the Statutory Phonics Screening checks
Book Week	2nd-6th March 2020	All	IL	
Book Blink	13.3.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Science Week	16th-20th March	All	TKL	
Parents Evenings	17.3.20 4.00-8.30pm	All		
KS1 SATs Information for parents	24.3.20 5.00	Y2	SM	
Easter Service	2.4.20 9.30am	All	FL, SP	Led by Years 1 &2, all families welcome
MUFTI	3.4.20	All		
INSET	20.4.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Relationships & Sex Education Information for parents	28.4.20 5.00	All	MS	
Bend the Rules	1.5.20	All		
Bank Holiday	8.5.20			SCHOOL CLOSED
KS2 Test Week	11th-15th May	Y6	IL	All Y6 children MUST be in school
Book Blink	5.6.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Phonics Screening Checks	8th—12th June	Y1, 2	FL	
Sports Day & picnic	18.6.20	All	GH	
INSET	19.6.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Music Concert	10.7.20 2.00	All	MS	
Summer Show	14.7.20 5.00	Y3,4,5	GH, LR, TKL	
Leaver's Service	16.7.20 9.30	Y6	IL	
MUFTI	17.7.20	All		

Class Assemblies 2.30pm	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Robins	28th November	6th March	25th June
Whinchats	22nd November	28th February	3rd July
Canaries	15th November	7th February	12th June
Green Jays	29th November	14th February	22nd May
Kingfishers	8th November	31st January	15th May
Peacocks	1st November	24th January	1st May
Sabrewings	18th October	17th January	26th June