



Newsletter

4th October 2019

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October arrived this week and we are hurtling through the term. On Monday, Year 3 children received training in safe scooter riding, from our friends at Sustrans—they had a tremendous time, and hopefully this will lead to more children scooting to school rather than getting the car. We were visited by Charlotte Johnson on Wednesday; she is the Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese of St Albans and our school advisor—she took a tour of the school and was blown away by our children, who greeted her with enthusiasm and happily shared their learning with her. I was so very proud and I know she enjoyed her visit very much. On Thursday, we celebrated Harvest and National Poetry Day—so many of you were able to come along and we received so many donations—thank you! Year 5 are out of school today, enjoying another visit, this time to the Higgins Museum as part of their studies of the local area. I also found this morning that Isla from Year 5 has received a prize as part of the We Love Bedford competition—at this stage I'm not too sure of other details, but will share when we know more. In the meantime, well done Isla!

Next week is Friendship Week—our Pupil Governors have organized a whole series of activities to promote the strong sense of friendship which runs through our school, and on Friday, we will be holding our MUFTI day to support beadsofcourageuk.org, an opportunity to show our friendship beyond the school gate—all donations are very welcome for this amazing charity which supports seriously ill children. On Tuesday, volunteers from B&Q will be in school to paint our library; in the coming weeks, they will hopefully re-paint our Year 1 and 2 classrooms as well, which will help us smarten up the school a bit! The School Book Fair arrives on Wednesday. On Friday, we will be holding our first Book Blink of the year; this is an opportunity for you to come into class and have a look at your child's books and they can share all their learning so far this term.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,
Maria & all the team at St James'

Punctuality

Please remember: school starts at 8.50am

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.

Individual and Sibling Photographs

You should have by now received your child's individual or sibling photographs taken by Tempest Photography. If you wish to order, you can do so either online or by returning your form with payment back to school. Please see payment instructions on the order form.

Please note, if you wish to place your order via the school, all orders should be returned by **9.00am Wednesday 16th October** at the very latest. We will not be able to receive orders after this date/time.



£286.21

Thank you for all your recent donations for charities.

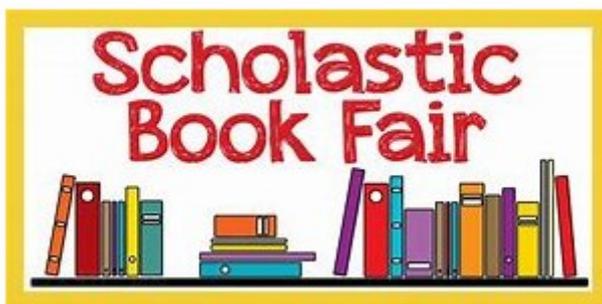
Well done to Nyasha, who organised a cake sale for Greenpeace and raised just over £53.



£54.12

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.stepintothens.nhs.uk/primary-schools/KS2-competition | Amazon vouchers Class trip to a local science venue | 1.5.2020 |
| Human Values Foundation—Children’s Stories http://www.humanvaluesfoundation.com/uploads/6/8/7/0/68703775/hvf-stories_on_values_competition_guidelines.pdf | Open to children aged 7-11 Write a story (400 words) based on one of these values: community, love, peace, responsibility, truth Must be unaided. Please include full name and school | Book Tokens | 17.10.19 |
| Human Values Foundation—illustrations http://www.humanvaluesfoundation.com/uploads/6/8/7/0/68703775/hvf-stories_on_values_competition_guidelines.pdf | Open to children aged 4-11 Up to A4 size, must be unaided, based on the values listed above. Please include full name and school | Copies of The Big Think Stories Book | 17.10.19 |



Scholastic Book Fair

On Thursday 10th October the Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving at St James’ Primary School, bringing a great selection of the very best books to inspire and entertain! The book fair will be open every day after school from Thursday 10th until Tuesday 15th October from 3.30 until

4.00pm. It will be located in the **mobile classroom.**

You will be able to pay for your purchases by cash or cheque. With your support, in return Scholastic will donate books to the school.

Thank you.

Ian Leach

Dear Parents & Carers,

Further to last week's newsletter, we would like to invite you to attend the PSA Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 16th October at 7:30pm at The Three Tuns.

The PSA meet a couple of times a term. The PSA brings together parents, teachers and others from the school community who are interested in supporting the school, providing an opportunity for everyone to work together, with a common purpose – to organise fundraising and social events. Events organised previously include school discos, wreath making, and the Summer and Christmas Fairs.

As a parent, you are automatically a member of the PSA and there are lots of ways you can help, by organising & volunteering for events, these are ongoing throughout the year. We also have admin roles on the committee, these people help to oversee & manage the admin side of the PSA but are no more obligated to be involved in events than any other members. Admin roles of the Committee consist of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications manager, Fundraising manager, and the Class-rep coordinator. These roles can also be shared (this has worked well in previous years). We have summarised the key responsibilities for all roles as a guide for parents (or grandparents) who may be interested in these. If this all sounds a bit formal, please don't be put off, it is very much a team effort and this guide is meant to be an information tool, especially for those new to the school or committee. If there is anything you would like to know, please ask any of the current committee members.

The roles will be nominated and voted for by the Committee as part of this meeting. Please find below a brief summary of each role.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another parent for a role, please complete the attached slip and return to the school office by Friday 11th October.

I would like to put myself forward for the role of:

Chair / Secretary / Treasurer / Communications Manager / Fundraising Manager / Class Rep / Class Rep Coordinator (circle as appropriate)

Name _____ Child's Name & Year:

Can you attend the AGM? Y / N

(If you cannot attend you can still nominate yourself for a role)

Roles and Responsibilities of PSA committee members

Chair/s

The Chair/Co-Chairs work closely with Sarah Morton our PSA staff contact, the Treasurer and Secretary to ensure that the PSA is run effectively. The main role of the Chair(s) is to lead half termly meetings and oversee the running of the annual fundraising events. Key responsibilities: Set the Agenda for Meetings and run the meeting (every half term). Welcome and involve new Members. Sign cheques for the PSA with one other Committee Member. Meet with Staff contact (Sarah Morton) and the Treasurer to agree PSA financial commitments for the year

Secretary/s

The secretary deals with all the correspondence that the PSA receives and supports the chair in coordinating meetings. The Secretary may also be involved in co-signing cheques on behalf of the PSA. Key responsibilities: Deal with correspondence. Write up the Minutes of Meetings. Co-sign cheques as required.

Communications Manager/s

The communications manager ensures that there are regular PSA communications with parents. Key responsibilities: Write regular newsletters in cooperation with the co-chair. Support the co-chair in preparing flyers, posters, tickets, etc. for events. Share community messages / events with local press (e.g. the loop).

Fundraising Manager/s

A crucial part of our fundraising efforts is through the additional money raised with the help of businesses through either parent or community contacts. Supporting the Treasurer, the fundraising manager is responsible for researching and organising external support and funding for PSA initiatives. Key responsibilities: Contact local companies for event sponsorship. Contact companies for donations (raffle/refreshments for events). Research & apply for eligible trusts/grants. Contact parents who can match-fund sponsorship raised for events.

Treasurer/s

The role of the treasurer is to manage and control the funds the PSA raises. The Treasurer should record all income and expenditure, and share termly updates at committee meetings (or if cannot attend, to forward the accounts to the chair/s. Key responsibilities: Maintain the financial records. Prepare and co-sign cheques as required. Report income and expenditure at meetings. Count and bank monies. Liaise with the bank. Charity registration and Gift Aid. Regular and other payments. Draw up the annual accounts.

Class Reps

Class Reps ensure good communication with the parents of their class. They organise social events for the parents and carers of their class. They help to sign up helpers for Summer and Christmas Fairs and help out where they can with PSA events. Key responsibilities include: Ensure class parents are signed up to Classlist. Welcome new parents to the School. Help out at and recruit volunteers for PSA events where possible.

Class Rep co-ordinator/s

Ensure class reps are aware of upcoming events, help coordinate volunteers lists and pass on any information on volunteer tasks. Key responsibilities include: Provide class reps with information regarding volunteers for events. Welcome new parents to the School. Help out at and recruit volunteers for PSA events where possible.

General Members

As a parent/carer/staff you are automatically a general member of the PSA. Members contribute ideas, help to run & organise fundraising events or initiatives. All members are encouraged to help out at the fundraising events. Information on help needed is provided by Class reps, or via the newsletter or Classlist in the run up to events.

Named Roles 2018/19 to date:

Co Chair/s – Eleanor Holton & Caz Bargery

Secretary – Fiona Mitchell

Co Treasurer/s – Alison Singh, Mikky Coladangelo (both standing down at AGM)

Staff Contact: Sarah Morton

Communications Manager – Hazel Fattorusso

Fundraising Manager –

Class Rep Co-ordinator –



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.

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!

Wanted:

Donations of any hardy plants or cuttings for the school garden. Please leave outside the Year 1 classroom. Many thanks.

Do You Work in Science or Technology?

At St James', one of our key curriculum drivers is ensuring that our pupils have high aspirations and high levels of achievement. Because of this, we are asking if any parents or family members know of anyone whose job is related to Science or technology and is willing to talk to children about their work.

If you are able to help us, please contact Miss Kassim-Lowe (Year 5 Class teacher) via the school office. We look forward to hearing from you.

Quiet Garden Development Day

Saturday, 12th October 12.00-4.00 (after the rugby!)

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!

Please complete and return this slip if you will be able to come along (or email office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk)

My name Child's Name

I/we will come along to the Garden Development Day on Saturday, 12th October.

Children can come along too, but must be accompanied/supervised by an adult carer/parent.

CURRENTLY, ONLY 1 FAMILY HAVE OFFERED THEIR HELP. IF THERE ARE NO MORE VOLUNTEERS, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELLED.



We're about half way through, so please keep your stickers coming in!

The Friends of St James, Biddenham
presents

An evening with Heart and Music

Musical Director: Malcolm Crane

A varied programme of music and songs, from show, film, folk and pop tunes to original compositions - plus some amusing poetry!

7:30pm, Saturday 12th October 2019

St James's Church, Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AS
Drinks and light refreshments in the interval

Entry £10 each (members of the Friends £8; children under 16 free)

To reserve your places, please contact:
Diana Shooter: 01234 213305 - diana_shooter437@btinternet.com
Chris Jones: 01234 211759 - chrishj49@gmail.com

*In aid of The Friends of St James, Biddenham
- the charity which preserves and enhances the historic church buildings for future generations*

A 'neon' themed MUFTI day will be held on **Friday, 18th October**—children may wear bright colours, and in exchange we ask you to bring in donations of bottles (of wine etc) for our 'wheelbarrow' raffle prize. Please drop these off with PSA members who will be at the gate on the Friday morning (for obvious reasons, do not send alcohol into school with your child)

We've received many positive comments and responses to our suggestion of getting a school dog, and no objections. This means that we will now start to thoroughly research the project, draw up risk assessments and seek out appropriate breeds and formulate a more formal proposal to take forward. Thank you for your support!

...to Natasha & Michael Fox, who have bought the staff a very fancy coffee machine—we love it!

...to Yo Higton, who let Ms Soulsby know of an offer; as a result, we will be receiving 4 bike stands for staff and visitors to school, free of charge.

| Event | Date & Time | Class | Staff Lead | Notes |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|---|
| Friendship week | 7th-11th October | All | CD, SM | |
| Autumn Book Fair | 10th-15th October | All | IL | 3.30-4.00 Mobile classroom |
| Y6 Tag Rugby | 11.10.19 | Y6 | IL | See separate letter |
| 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 1.00 | All | MS | Please come and help us develop our outdoor environment |
| Y3 & 4 Multi Sports | 16.10.19 | Y3,4 | GH, LR | See separate letter |
| Neon MUFTI Day | 18.10.19 | All | PSA | See note in newsletter |
| 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 |
| Sutton Hoo trip | 11.11.19 | Y4 | LR | See separate letter |
| Vision Screening (Reception) | 25.11.19 | YR | DS | |
| 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 | | |