



Newsletter

11th October 2019

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

We've had another busy week—on Tuesday, we had a team of about 20 volunteers from B&Q who came to paint our Year 1 & 2 classrooms, as well as our library. It meant the children had a strange day, but we are all delighted with the results! Many thanks to Mrs Morton who organized this, as well as B&Q for their support. Our Book Fair has also arrived this week—Mr Leach will be opening this after school for the next few days; for every book you buy, our school receives commission, which means we can buy new books for the school. Today, we are all in MUFTI to support our Pupil Governors' charity, Beads of Courage, which supports children who are very seriously ill—thank you for all your donations today.

Next week is our last week of Term 1, and in the run up to half term, there is still lots to do. Quite a few staff will be out of school on various courses, details of which are listed later in the newsletter. I know that staff absence can cause some difficulties for children, and we try to minimize this by covering classes with people who are known to children. Ensuring we provide good quality Professional Development for our staff is incredibly important to us, and we believe that the investment is incredibly worthwhile as it ensures we stay at the forefront of good practice, which, of course, benefits our children greatly into the future.

Finally, a quick note regarding the PSA. Our PSA is working incredibly hard to organize all sorts of events which help raise money for the school, as well as provide social events for both children and adults. They are continuing to raise money for the purchase of new, fantastic, fixed play equipment, as well as provide financial support for all the trips and visits teachers organize. A big project is the upcoming Neon Party (for adults) which should be a fantastic night out for us all—if you haven't bought your tickets yet, please do so soon—this event raised thousands for us last year, and every penny goes towards supporting the children in school, so please do support us with this.

Tomorrow, a group of us are coming together to build some garden furniture out of all the pallets we have collected—if you can join us from 12.00-4.00, please come along—we need your help!

Very best wishes,
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.

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 it write 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
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

From Peacocks Class

Year 5's trip to the Higgins Museum was fantastic because we learnt a lot about the Siege of Bedford castle. We re-enacted the battle between King Henry the third and Faulks Debrute. To finish our day we did some brass rubbings of a timeline of the Siege. We also explored inside and found several historical artefacts which enhanced our learning.



St James' PSA News



Hello again!

I hope everyone had a great first month back at school. The PSA have been busy from the get-go, with loads of planning and excellent fundraising events taking place. But we still need lots and lots of help from as many parents as possible. So, if you are able to spare some time, please get in touch on Classlist and watch out for notices in book bags.

Neon Party (Adults) We still have tickets available for the Neon Disco on Friday, November 8. The closing date for buying tickets is October 31. The planning team have been working hard at making this a fantastic event, with great food and fantastic music. Please show your support for this event, and all money raised will go towards new equipment for the playground. Why not invite family and friends to come along.



Neon Mufti Day (Children) There will also be a Neon mufti day for all pupils on Friday, October 18. Donations of a bottle of wine or spirits to go in the raffle prize. The organisers will collect this on the gate, as no alcohol should be taken onto school grounds.

PSA AGM Please come along to our PSA AGM later this month. We urgently need volunteers to fill the vacant committee roles. We understand everyone is busy, so roles can be shared between two or more people. And it doesn't matter if you are unable to attend every meeting, the role duties can still be carried out. If you would like to put yourself forward, please either complete the slip at the bottom of the letter that was sent out, or contact Eleanor Holton or Caz Bargery on Classlist or at drop off or pick up.

Cash 4 Coins Remember to send in your left-over holiday money and old or unused currency. We are doing a count-up of the money boxes next Wednesday and will announce the winning class after half term.

Dates for your diary

- **PSA AGM** (All parents welcome) Wednesday, October 16, 7.30pm, The Three Tuns pub.
- **PSA meet-up** Thursday, November 7, 9-10am, mobile classroom
- **Christmas Fayre planning meeting** Monday, November 11, 7pm, The Three Tuns pub.
- **Christmas Wreath Making** Thursday, November 11, 7.30pm, Church Barn, Biddenham
- **Christmas Fayre** Friday, December 13, 3.30pm, School hall

Don't forget...

- **Easy Fundraising** Raise money by shopping online through www.easyfundraising.org
- **Stikins** Use School fundraising number: 19770 at www.stikins.co.uk to raise funds.
- **Stampastic** Use PTA code: MK40 4BD at www.stampastic.co.uk to raise funds.

Keep in touch...



Sign up to classlist to keep up to date with all the PSA news and connect with other parents. Register at: www.classlist.com



Follow our facebook page "Friends of St James' Primary School Biddenham"



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!

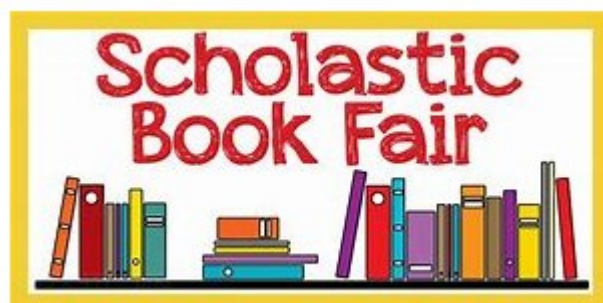
Wanted:

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.



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.



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

Next Friday—Neon MUFTI Day. Donations of bottles

requested (please bring these in on Friday morning, and leave at the front gate)

Staffing Changes next week...

The following staff will be away from school attending various courses:

Monday	Miss Pillai (RE)
Tuesday	Mr Renzi (Mental Health & Well-being)
	Mr Leach & Mrs Morton (Curriculum)
Friday	Miss Kassim-Lowe (Maths)

Governing Body News

The Governing Body met this week, and have elected David Fraser as their new Chair. Our thanks go to Brian Johnson, who has held this position for the past year, providing great support and guidance to the school.

Alan Eckett-Brown is standing down as Parent Governor, which means there will be an election—details will be sent out soon. In the meantime, we are incredibly grateful for the support and work Alan has provided over the past 2 years.

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

Event	Date & Time	Class	Staff Lead	Notes
Autumn Book Fair	10th-15th October	All	IL	3.30-4.00 Mobile classroom
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
Biddenham Team Challenge Finals	17.10.19 3.30	Y6	IL	Mr Leach will sent details home
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
Storytelling Day	1.11.19	Y5	TKL	See separate letter
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
Bag 2 School	20.11.19	All	PSA	
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
PSA Christmas Fair	13.12.19	All	PSA	
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		

Starting School September 2020

We have a number of dates available for tours of the school for prospective parents. If you know anyone who is getting ready for their child to start school next September, please do encourage them to contact us and book a tour of the school. We also offer tours for families in other year groups. Unlike many other schools, our tours do not take place on one-off Open Days, so offer an opportunity to see life in action at St James' on a 'normal' school day.