



Newsletter

12th June 2020

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It's been so lovely to welcome some of our Robins back to school this week—they have arrived back full of smiles and enthusiasm, and have clearly enjoyed their time back at school. They've coped incredibly well with the different ways of coming into school and working in the classroom and we're all so very proud of them. Well done to you all! Thank you to our families who have also worked so positively to follow all our new rules and ways of working, and also for your support, feedback and positivity. Next week, we welcome back some of our Whinchats, and I know that Mrs Lawless, Mrs Botrugno and Mr Tapley are very much looking forward to seeing everyone! We'll be making a special video for you today, so keep an eye out on Twitter and the school website.

As you no doubt will be aware, the Government have announced this week that schools will not be re-opening to other year groups (ie Y2-5) before September. Although this is a real shame, it is the right thing to do as schools just don't have the physical space or numbers of staff to re-open more widely in the way they are doing for Years R, 1 and 6. However, we do think it will be the right thing to have some sort of end of year activity for everyone—at the moment, we don't know what this might look like so will be keeping an eye out on future announcements regarding the Lockdown, and if general restrictions are eased further, we will start to plan something so that all children can come back to school for a period of time to say goodbye to their current class teachers and meet their new class teachers. I really don't know what and how this might work yet, so please bear with me. Teachers will continue to set weekly home learning activities for your children, and these will be uploaded onto the school website from Friday afternoon, ready for Monday morning. If you need these printed out, please contact your child's class teacher who will make arrangements for you to collect packs from school.

The Government has also made reference to setting up summer schools—as a profession, we have not seen anything at all which indicates what this might look like. I suspect that this will be a centralized provision, accessed via Local Authorities, rather than it being a provision made by individual schools. When I know more, I will share this with you. For St James', we do not intend to stay open through the summer period—staff have worked throughout the Lockdown and will deserve a break, plus staff are not contracted to work through any of the school holiday periods, so re-negotiating those contracts and pay will be incredibly tricky to complete in such a short time period.

Our reduced provision for keyworkers (Rainbow Club) is nearing capacity and we are nearly at the point where we may need to refuse any further requests for places. We have drawn up a protocol for prioritizing requests made. Please remember that any requests for this provision should be made in writing to office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk (please do not send these to my email address as I may not see your request in good time), with at least 5 school days notice, specifying exactly what days you will need as well as your job role and how this **directly** supports the effective delivery of essential public services as part of the COVID-19 response. If we are unable to offer your child a place, we will direct you to the provision available via the Local Authority.

There are still so many unknowns about the current situation and how our lives will return to normal—I hope that above everything else, you are all staying safe and well, remembering that that is the most important priority for us all. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria and all the team at St James'

Quick Reminders

Helping us to manage re-opening effectively

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms must stay away from school.

Rainbow Club

- This is our reduced childcare provision for children of critical workers which is open 8.30-3.30
- Critical workers are those people whose job role is listed by the government as essential to managing the pandemic
- Mrs Morton is managing this provision
- To access, you must do so in writing to office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk, listing the days you require and details of your job role, and give us at least 5 school days notice of any changes/new registrations—we can not and will not accept last minute bookings/registrations
- If your child is new to this provision, you must complete and sign the registration form before they start
- We may need to limit numbers, due to staff availability. Priority will be given to those children already registered. If we can not accommodate your child, we will direct you to available local provision.
- Entry via the school drive, exit via the Reception side gate & pedestrian gate (follow the signs)
- Uniform is not worn (as it's not 'school')
- Time for home learning forms part of the day so please bring this with you
- Packed lunch provided

Children returning to school in Years R, 1, 6

- Entry via school drive, follow signs to drop off zones, exit via pedestrian gate—hand sanitizer is available for your use
- No parent to enter classrooms or school without a pre-arranged appointment
- Staggered arrival and pick up times—please only arrive at these times; anyone arriving after these times may be refused entry into school
- Attendance should be consistent, aiming for 4 days a week (unless unwell)
- If you decide your child will return to school at a later date, you must give us 5 school days' notice by emailing office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk, we will confirm your start date. New returners will only start on Mondays.
- Please remember that we can not guarantee that children will maintain 2m social distancing and that they won't touch (or even hug) each other.
- If your child is unwell in any way, please don't send them to school
- Uniform should be worn
- Packed lunches only—no hot meals are available from the school kitchen; it is our preference that children do not bring packed lunches from home and that they take up the packed lunch provided by the school kitchen.
- Please do not bring in any items from home—only water bottles allowed

Children who remain at home

- Home learning will continue to be provided—we will upload this to the school website every Monday at around lunchtime—if you need printed packs, please contact your child's teacher using the email addresses previously provided. They will confirm when these will be available for pick up
- FSM vouchers will continue to be ordered from EdenRed, however, this is likely to end soon, and the school kitchen will start to provide these. More details will be provided once DfE have confirmed plans.
- Teachers will continue to make contact with families during the week, or on Fridays. Please be aware that any emails you send may not be picked up as quickly as they have been so far, as many teachers will now be in school supporting the re-opening

School is closed on Fridays, except for Rainbow Club

Fundraiser: Mums on the Run

Caz, Kerry & Eleanor between them will run 300km during June. 300km to raise money for St James' Primary School.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation our school needs funds to help the children and teachers maintain safety. To do this the children will be outdoors more where possible. This will require more equipment.

Please help us to raise the funds for outdoor learning/activities, for example:

- A playtime box for each group, with age related toys/activities (eg dolls/cars for the younger children, puzzles, rubix cubes, etc for the older pupils) or...
- Art boxes (similar to PE) – 5 sets of watercolour paints, oil pastels, etc for each group.
- Gazebos

To support us and donate please go to:

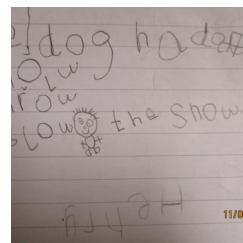
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/mums-on-the-run>

You can also track our progress via our private Mums on the Run Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/244090167035807/edit/>

Your support would mean so much to the school, to our village. It takes a village to raise a child. Thank you.

Robins are back at school—and having a wonderful time!



Rainbow Club Admissions

Information for parents

We have had a number of new enquiries for our childcare provision for key workers, Rainbow Club. This provision is now running at full capacity for some dates. We have to cap numbers in order to ensure the wider opening of classes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6).

In order to ensure availability for those who need it most, priority will be given in the following order:

- Pupils who have accessed this provision throughout the Lockdown period
- Pupils where either parent is a member of NHS frontline staff eg doctors and nurses
- Pupils who are vulnerable (including those with a social worker or an EHCP as defined by the government)
- Pupils where both parents or a single parent are on the key worker list and can demonstrate that their role is critical to the COVID-19 response
- Pupils where one parent is on the key worker list and can demonstrate that their role is critical to the COVID-19 response
- Pupils who qualify for free school meals
- Pupils who are identified as having Special Educational Needs but do not have an EHCP

In line with government guidance, we need simple evidence that a parent in question is a critical worker, including confirmation **from their employer on what their job is and how it is critical to the COVID-19 response.**

Where only limited spaces are available, pupils in categories 1-4 will be able to book in advance. Those pupils in categories 5-7 will be offered available places on an adhoc basis at short notice.

If we are unable to provide a place for a pupil, parents will be signposted to the Local Authority for provision.

The Government guidance is that schools and parents should follow these key principles:

- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then provision will be available for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents must do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially outside of school. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults, as far as possible.
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

Please be aware that if you book a place in this provision, you are expected to adhere to the following:

- Arriving promptly between 8.30 and 8.45am
- Collecting your child promptly at 3.25-3.30pm. We understand that the nature of some of your work means you might be late, please let us know if this is the case. We want to support you and your work and will always be happy to look after your child when/if needed.
- Advise us of any absence due to illness—you can either phone us or email
- Sticking to the days you have booked; if you need to change arrangements, you must advise us in writing and give us as much notice as possible—if you do not do this, then we may re-allocate your place to another family, which may mean you lose your child's place.
- Please help us to help you by maintaining good communication with us.