



Newsletter

19th June 2020

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head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

This week has seen the return of Whinchats to school, and it has been so lovely to see them! They have had a lovely week, and have coped really well with all the changes we've had to make. On Monday, we see the return of Year 6. I have a meeting with staff next week to look at the possibilities for bringing back other year groups. We know we won't be able to re-open all classes on a full time basis—we still have some staff shielding and staff who belong to high risk groups, but we do want to look at the resource we have available and put into place opportunities for children to return to school, even if it's just for a few days/sessions so that they can have some sort of closure/end of the year, as well as opportunities to see their friends, catch up and share their news and stories. I hope to have a proposal in place ready for next week.

With the return of Year 6 next week, we will have even more people present on site, so we will all need to work together to ensure we can manage school in as calm and orderly way as possible. We really need you to play your part in this so we can keep everyone as safe as possible; this is especially important given the news that Bedford continues to have a very high rate of cases and we are being asked by the Mayor to maintain strict social distancing and stay home where possible. Some important reminders of ways in which you can help us:

- Stick to the one way system in place. For those of you using Rainbow Club, please exit the school via the Reception outdoor area whenever the little gate is open
- Arrive at school on time for both drop off and pick up. This is especially important at the end of the morning sessions; teaching staff only have 45 minutes to have their lunch and prepare for the afternoon session, and cleaning staff have only 45 minutes to carry out a deep clean of the classrooms and toilets. If you are late, this time is reduced as staff can not commence those activities if they are waiting for children to be collected. If you are going to be late, please telephone and let us know so that we can plan supervision for your child which does not impact on delaying teachers/cleaning staff.
- For children who come to Rainbow Club, they must arrive by 9.00 at the very latest—any arrivals after this time may be refused admittance.
- Don't arrive too early for your session as we might not be ready to let you in and you will then need to wait outside, and we need to limit the number of people congregating in drop off areas. This is especially important for Year 6 children who may come to school on their own—they should arrive at school between 8.50 and 9.10 only and must come straight into school.
- Leave the site promptly when you have collected your child
- Continue to talk to your children about the importance of keeping their distance and washing their hands
- Any changes to your existing routine/decisions/needs must be communicated to us in writing (office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk) giving us 5 school days notice—we can not respond to short notice requests for school attendance or Rainbow Club.
- Keep your child at home if they are in any way unwell
- Most importantly, do not come onto the school site if you are displaying any coronavirus symptoms
- Please remember that any change, no matter how small, will require us to alter our existing plans and risk assessments, which can not be done quickly. The rules and procedures we have put into place are important so we can ensure we can keep everyone as safe as possible.

I hope you enjoy a happy and peaceful weekend—please stay safe!

Maria and all the team at St James'

Year 6 arrangements

Helping us to manage re-opening effectively

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms must stay away from school.

- Arrive between 8.50 and 9.10. Do not arrive at school any earlier than this. No children should gather together outside of school. When you arrive, come straight into school.
- If you arrive after 9.10, you will not be able to come into school, so do not be late.
- The school day ends at 3.15—please make sure you collect your child promptly
- Only one parent per child. Please avoid bringing siblings if possible. If you must bring a sibling with you, then they must stay by your side at all times, and not access other areas of the school site/ play on equipment.
- If your child walks home, then they must leave the school site promptly. Do not allow your child to walk with a group of more than 2 children
- Only bring a water bottle to school. Do not bring bags into school
- Packed lunch only (there are no hot dinners available). It is our preference for all children to have a packed lunch provided by the school, so where possible, please use this facility. If your child can only have a home prepared packed lunch, then this must be in a suitable packed lunch box (not a plastic bag) and you must ensure that this is properly disinfected every day, both inside and outside.
- If your child is walking by themselves, they may bring a mobile phone with them. This must be switched off when they enter school and must be handed in to Mr Leach as soon as they go into class.
- Social distancing must be observed. They must use the social distancing spots which have been placed around school site. Only one child is allowed on the entrance/exit ramps at any one time, and no more than 2 children in the corridor at any one time. Any child who repeatedly breaks the rules we have in place may be sent home from school, so please talk to your child about the seriousness of this.
- Parents, please leave your child in the drop off zone and leave the school as quickly as you can. Please don't wait with your child—staff will supervise them. At the end of the day, please wait in the playground drop off zone, maintaining 2m distance from other parents. Please leave the site immediately once you have collected your child.
- Stick to the one way system in place—staff will be present to guide you. Do not visit the school office. Parents are not allowed to enter any part of the school building without a prior appointment. To contact us, you will need to either telephone the office or email office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk
- There is hand sanitizer at all gates and at the entrance to the Aviary building—this is for parents and children to use before they enter/exit the school site. Please use it.

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 & Whinchats 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:

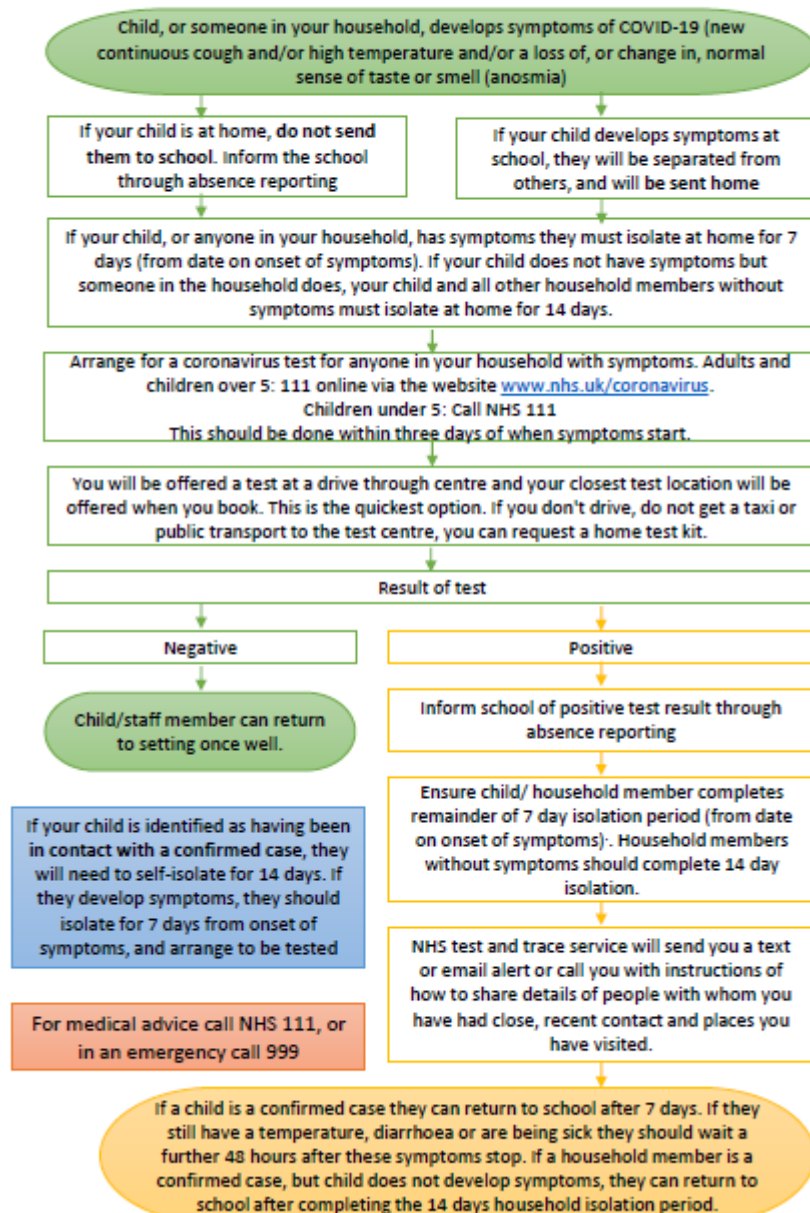
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then provision will be available for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members 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.

Coronavirus information for parents/ households (June 2020)

For general advice about COVID-19, contact your school nurse service on 0300 555 0606 or ccs.beds.childrens.spa@nhs.net



Guitar Lessons with Mr Patching

Mr Patching is offering on line guitar lessons for pupils who were receiving them at school.

Anyone interested should contact marcpatching@hotmail.com in the first instance. Spaces are limited.

Virtual Orchestra

Go to

https://philharmonia.co.uk/planets/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=200611L%26Eresourcesemail&utm_content=version_A for a 'watch party' tonight at 7.00, Holt's The Planets (very accessible for children!)

Also on their website is access to sound samples, instrument guides, guides about how an orchestra works—some fascinating links for those of you interested in music!