



Newsletter

26th June 2020

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

We welcomed Year 6 back to school this week, and I am absolutely delighted with just how well they have come back and how quickly they have got back into the rhythm of full days in school—well done! We now have all the year groups required by the Government back in school and it really is just lovely to see the school returning to a routine. The children are coping incredibly well with the new rules and routines and are doing everything they need to be doing to help keep themselves and others safe.

Next week, we will welcome back children in Years 2 (Thursday) and 5 (Tuesday morning) for a short time, aimed at giving them a chance to re-connect with school life before September. For these children, they will need to wear school uniform, please; if they have grown out of their uniform, we don't expect you buy new items this late in the school year, but do ask that they wear clothes as close to uniform as possible and that are appropriate for a school environment. They can bring a water bottle, but we ask that nothing else is brought in from home. Entry to school is via the school drive only. For morning sessions, please arrive at school after 9.00, and aim to be in class by 9.15 at the very latest; for the afternoon session, please arrive from 12.45 and aim to be in class by 1.00 at the very latest. Unfortunately, anyone who is late will not be able to go into class. Y5 parents should leave children in the drop off zone between the two vehicle gates, Y2 parents should leave their child at the Y2 classroom door. All parents should exit school as quickly as they can using the one way system in place. Please avoid waiting with your child or gathering with others.

At pick up time, please pick your child up promptly at either 11.15 or 3.00—Y2 parents should wait in the drop off zone between the vehicle gates and Y5 parents should wait in the playground drop off zone. Your child will be sent to you by their teacher and you should leave the school site as quickly as possible—this will help us maintain social distancing.

For those children in Rainbow Club, staff will manage the movement of children to/from their classrooms, and in Y2 Miss Pillai will keep hold of the children in the afternoon until you arrive to pick up at 3.30.

I hope this all makes sense! Essentially, we need you to observe the times given and not be late/too early, so that you don't become mixed up with other classes arriving/leaving, that you stick to our one system and that you use your good judgement in maintaining distance from other children and adults. Please remember also that we ask only one parent to accompany their child, and where possible to leave siblings at home; where this is not possible, siblings must stay immediately close to their parent's side. There will be staff dotted around to help you make the right moves. Thank you so much for your co-operation and good judgement!

We are now more or less full in Rainbow Club, which is our provision for key workers. This means that if you need support with childcare, it is most likely that we will need to signpost you to the provision available via the Local Authority. We will not be opening our provision during the summer holidays, so all families will need to secure childcare through other providers. In terms of the classes which are now open and running, next week is the last week when you will be able to return your child to school. We will not be able to add to existing groups beyond 6th July; this is because of the complex planning which needs to happen to accommodate new children.

So far, the arrangements we have put into place have worked well. This is because your children have been brilliant in following all the new rules and procedures, but also because the vast majority of families have worked with us so positively to make it all work—thank you so much. Re-opening school has been incredibly complex and tricky, and we couldn't be doing this without your sensible responses and support—it really does take a village to raise a child!

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

Fundraiser: Mums on the Run

Fundraising total currently stands at £630—it would be great if we could get to £1000!

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.

So good to have our Year 6s back at school.....



We will be making short videos for Y2 & Y5 children to help the return to school next week— watch out for these on the web-site and via Twitter.



Walk & Talk with Mel

During Summer Holidays for anyone aged **9-17 years old**.

50min walk around Priory Marina Bedford.

Focusing on **building confidence and resilience** in preparation for returning to face to face education in September.

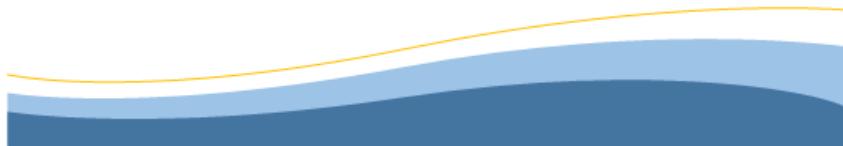
The walk will consist of , **Listening, talking, mindful practices and coping strategies for anxiety.**

- ◆ **Wednesdays 22nd July**
- ◆ **29th July**
- ◆ **12th August**
- ◆ **26th August**

Book on one or all four, £30 per session.

Email me mjpositivetherapy@gmail.com

I am a school counsellor and private counsellor, fully DBS checked and member of BACP and insured for walk and talk through Holistic Insurance.



FACES



LunchBox is starting early this year. As a response to schools being closed we have made the decision to launch our holiday hunger service on:

1st July 2020

Are you struggling to make ends meet now that the children are at home all day? Then please visit us at Church Lane Community Centre to collect a free lunch for each child.

Things will be a little different this year.

The lunches provided will be 'takeaway' only and can be collected at reception between 12pm and 2pm

We have automatic (no touch) doors and only one family will be allowed to enter at any one time. You will be asked to sanitize your hands with the hand gel provided

Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

All staff and volunteers will respect your safety and will be wearing appropriate PPE



Please contact us if your child has special dietary needs and we will do our best to ensure they are included.

Telephone: 01234 270601
Email: office@facesbedford.org

Can you buy a meal for a child?
Each lunch cost us £4.00 per child
If you would like to buy a meal please donate through
<https://localgiving.org/search/?query=FACES&page=1&tab=charities>

Charity Registration No. 1108574 Registered in England and Wales No: 05372026

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.

Can you help?

In order to help Sustrans and Bedford Borough Council plan for the future and to further promote active travel to families, we have produced a simple online survey for parents to fill in. It takes less than 5 minutes and the link is:

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/bedford-schools-parent-survey>

There is a prize incentive for one lucky respondent who will win a £400 bicycle to suit their child.