



### Be COVID Aware

Do not come onto school site if you have any Coronavirus symptoms, & get tested. Maintain social distancing at all times. The symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

## Newsletter

### 9th October, 2020

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It was just lovely to see all the bright colours and rainbows in school on Wednesday, and we're really pleased at the numbers of families who are now making their way to school in ways other than by car—the fewer cars outside school the better, keeping pedestrians safe as they move around the area and also helps to keep emissions down which can only be a good thing. Thank you for your support and efforts this week, please keep it going throughout the year!

We are now feeling a lot more settled with all the new routines and procedures we've had to put into place since returning to school—I can't thank you enough for your support, and your understanding & patience when things haven't gone quite to plan. We're beginning to think about the return of specific activities now, such as parents evenings and class assemblies—please see the notes later on in this newsletter, and also the forms which are in your children's bookbags.

Despite the rain this week, we have managed to make it outside at lunchtimes, which is fantastic as the children do need a bit of break from the intensity in the classrooms—we are surprised, however, that there are still children who don't seem to have a coat in school. Please could we ask you to make sure your child brings a waterproof coat into school each day—if they don't need it, that's fine, but we do try to stay outside for as long as possible during light rain or short showers, and obviously coats are very useful!

With two weeks to go, days getting shorter and darker, and the additional pressure of living with the pandemic, now is the time when we all start to get tired—your children are working so hard and have adapted so well to new ways of functioning at school and they are starting to get a bit tired. As are all the adults looking after them, including, I'm sure, all of you—please rest well this weekend, take some time to just be and relax. I wish you all every happiness,

Maria & all the team at St James'

### Individual Photographs – Tempest

Your child has been handed their individual photograph order form and a proof of the photograph taken by Tempest Photography last week. If you would like to place an order for your child's photograph you can do so either online or by returning payment and the order form to school.

If ordering via the school, all orders should be returned by **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. We cannot accept any orders via the school after this date.

### Upcoming Dates for your diaries:

Monday 12th October  
Tuesday 20th October &  
Wednesday 21st October  
Thursday, 22nd October  
Friday 23rd October  
**Monday 2nd November**

Sabrewings Library visit

Parent/Teacher Consultations—these will be held via Zoom  
Whinchats Class Assembly 2.30 (this will be held via Zoom )  
Last day of term  
**INSET day, school closed to children**

### Class Assemblies

We will be holding Class assemblies for the foreseeable future via Zoom.

The day before your child's class assembly, teachers will send you an invite via Marvellous Me and/or GroupCall. The waiting room will operate, and teachers will only let people into the Zoom room that we know. For this reason, it's really important that we know parent's names, so that we can identify you—we know many of your names but not everyone. If we don't recognise a name, we won't let that person in, in order to maintain safety for the children. Initially, we are asking that only parent/carers and grandparents attend class assemblies.

Under no circumstances should any element of the assembly be recorded; if teachers notice any recording happening, then unfortunately you will be ejected from the Zoom room. This is to safeguard all the children and staff and no exceptions will be made.

Because we're dealing with technology, there will undoubtedly be some technical hitches, and as we all know, the internet can sometimes be very unreliable. As a result, the School can not be held accountable for any failures with the internet or any other hitches outside of our control—we hope you can understand this.

We know that some of you may not want your child to take part in Zoom assemblies—if this is the case, please indicate this on the slip sent home today.

Class Assembly Zoom slips need to be returned by Monday, 12th October.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

We will also be conducting this term's Parent/Teacher meetings via Zoom. Please complete the slip sent home today for each child indicating your preferred time period. Teachers will then work together to allocate appointments within that period. Closer to the time, we will send you a link to each teacher's Zoom Room. When you log on, you will be placed in a waiting room and will be admitted when it is your allocated time slot. We ask that all separated parents attend the same time slot, as staff do not have capacity to hold separate meetings. Each session will be for 10 minutes; we will need to be much stricter with this as we don't want to keep people waiting in a virtual waiting room. Because of the pressures on teachers' time and workload this term, no alternative dates can be offered. For those of you who do not wish to use Zoom, teachers can make a telephone call home instead.

Again, any recording of meetings is not allowed, and where staff believe parents are attempting to record the meeting, they will terminate the call immediately. Only names we recognise will be admitted into the Zoom Call so please make sure you complete the slip accurately.

The focus for these meetings will be primarily about how well your child has returned to school following the Lockdown period, and we will identify any emerging strengths/areas for improvement.

**Every child has a paper copy of the attached Class Assembly/Parent Teacher Meeting slips—these need to need to be returned by Monday, 12th October, via your child's book bag. On this occasion, please don't send this information via email, as it's too easy for us to lose track of who we've heard from. Thank you.**

### Harpur Trust Art Competition

Last night was the award ceremony for the Harpur Trust competition, which we entered last year. We are very proud to announce that in the 7-11 year old category, Faith (who was in Year 6) won 2nd prize and a commendation for her artwork went to Isla, who is now in Year 6. Congratulations!



**Faith: 'With my design I chose to use the colours red, orange and yellow because I wanted it to be quite bright and show my bubbly personality. I also wanted to base it on my Zimbabwe culture because they use similar patterns in their material. The print I did looked like lace as this is important in Bedford because of Bedfordshire lace.'**



**Isla: 'I have created a colourful and black and white perspective picture using water colours. It is of Bedford to this day (left) and Bedford 100 years ago (right) to show how Bedford is always changing. Firstly, I cut out two photos of the image and stuck them opposite each other. Next, I copied out the image using pencil. Lastly I painted the copied image on to watercolour paper.'**

All entries from our school can be seen at the following website: <https://www.harpur-art-competition.org.uk/2020-exhibition/>

### COVID Update

We are seeing a small number of staff and children who need to self-isolate due to advice linked to the COVID Pandemic. Fortunately, we have not yet had any member of the school receive a positive test, which is just brilliant, and is all down the hard work and efforts of everyone in making sure that all the rules and arrangements are followed—thank you for the part you are playing in this!

Please remember that if your child shows any symptoms of COVID, they must not come to school and must isolate for 10 days or until they receive a negative test. Household members, including siblings and parents, must isolate for 14 days—this means that if one of your children is off school because they have symptoms, you must not send any other siblings into school, until you have received a negative test. No parent displaying symptoms should come onto the school site for any reason.

A reminder that we upload remote learning packs onto the school website every Monday morning, so that well children can continue to learn while they are away from school. Children have two exercise books in which they can complete their school work. The Government expects schools to provide daily contact with children who are away from school. This means that teachers will try to contact you every day to check in with you and support you with home learning—this is meant to be supportive and helpful rather than 'checking up' on you.

Thank you so much for everything you are doing to help keep our school COVID safe—we really do appreciate it! Your messages of support and encouragement are so lovely as well, and really help us keep going—staff are working extremely hard at the moment and they appreciate every single message of support.



POSITIVELY YOGA

## YOGA CLASSES NEAR YOU

All ages and abilities welcome (including wheelchair users).

Keeley Frampton of Positively Yoga is passionate about bringing the benefits of yoga to all ages and bodies and promises not to make you bend like a pretzel (unless you want to!).

Keeley's yoga classes incorporate a variety of yogic styles, breath techniques, mindfulness, and meditation.

Please email Keeley at  
[info@iampositivelyyoga.com](mailto:info@iampositivelyyoga.com)  
call 07874781076 or visit  
[www.iampositivelyyoga.com](http://www.iampositivelyyoga.com) to book

## TIMETABLE

Biddenham Pavilion

Mondays, 2pm to 3pm - yoga  
Thursdays, 2.30pm to 3.30pm - chair yoga

Great Denham Community Hall

Tuesdays, 10.30am to 11.30am - chair yoga

Stagsden Village Hall

Wednesdays, 1.30pm to 2.30pm - yoga  
Wednesdays, 3pm to 4pm - chair yoga

Online

Mondays, 5.30pm to 6.30pm - chair yoga  
Tuesdays, 7am to 8am - yoga

£8 per class (£6 online). Discounts for block bookings.

Bring a friend for FREE during September and October 2020.

DAWNUNTILDUSK  
BEFORE, AFTER SCHOOL & HOLIDAY CLUB



Please contact our club manager Cathy on 07826100013

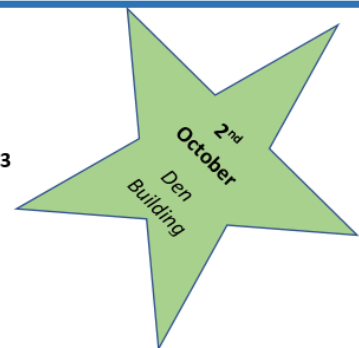
To make you're booking

**Friday Theme Nights**

**At**

**St James**

**Not to be missed**



# St James' PSA News



## Welcome Back!

The PSA would like to start by offering a warm welcome back to all our children and parents. And a special welcome to all the new little Robins, their families, and any other new children who have joined our school this year. Things may seem a bit different this term, but it is even more wonderful than ever to have all the children back.

### The PSA

For those of you who don't know, the St James PSA – Parent Staff Association – is a way for our parents to help raise funds for the school through fun activities and events. You don't have to join the PSA, every parent is automatically a member. If you would like to be more involved, or have an idea for a fundraising event, there are always lots of opportunities. Just come along to a (virtual) meeting to find out more – details below.

### New Parents (Virtual) Social

We know its hard sometimes to meet new parents when joining a new school. So, to make things a bit easier, every year the PSA holds a New Parents Social for parents of new children from all year groups. Normally we would hold the event at the local pub, but things are a bit different this year. So, instead we are holding a virtual social. Just grab a drink, log on and meet some new faces. Details below.

**New Play Equipment** – Last year we were raising money for new play equipment in the playground. We have now reached this target and are able to provide the school with the money they need for this. Once the school has made further progress on this, we will let you know.

**Funds for Year groups** – Each year the PSA give each year group £300 to spend how they see fit.

**Mums on the Run** – Over the summer, three mums from the school – Caz, Eleanor and Kerry – raised a whopping £1,295 for the school by running 320km between them. This money has now gone towards purchasing new art equipment for each class, which has now arrived and is being enjoyed by the children.

## Dates for your diary

- **New Parents (Virtual) Social** Thursday, October 15, 8pm, via Zoom
- **PSA meet-up** Tuesday, October 20, 9.30am, via Zoom
- **PSA AGM** Tuesday, November 3, 8pm, via zoom.

## Don't forget...

- **Easy Fundraising** Raise money by shopping online through [www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org)
- **Stikins** Use School fundraising number: 19770 at [www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk) to raise funds.
- **Stampastic** Use PTA code: MK40 48D at [www.stampastic.co.uk](http://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](http://www.classlist.com)



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

Please complete both parts for each child and return to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### Class Assemblies

Child's Name .....

Parent/Carers Name(s) .....

I am happy for my child to participate in Class Assemblies via Zoom Yes ☐

No ☐

I confirm that I will not attempt to record any aspect of the Class Assembly, either by using the Zoom record button or via any other digital means (eg mobile phone)

Parent/Carer signature .....

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### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Child's Name .....

Preferred time slots for meetings:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 4.00-5.00 5.00-6.00 6.00-7.00

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Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 4.00-5.00 5.00-6.00 6.00-7.00

☐☐☐

Parent's Names: .....

I/We do not wish to meet via Zoom, therefore, please telephone me/us on the following number:

.....

I/We confirm that I/we will not attempt to record any aspect of the Parent/Teacher meeting, either by using the Zoom record button or via any other digital means (eg mobile phone)

Parent/Carer signature .....





Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, students, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with COVID-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- you should only book a test if your child has any of these 3 coronavirus symptoms:
  1. a high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
  2. a new continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
  3. a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- your child does not need a test if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus
- if you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the [official list of symptoms on the NHS website](#), which is reviewed regularly
- only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the 3 symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result
- if the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms
- if a pupil or student in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school or college. Schools and colleges have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some [guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school](#) which you may find useful.

It is vital for children and young people's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Viv Bennett CBE  
Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and Early Years, Public Health England

Dr Susan Hopkins  
Interim Chief Medical Officer, NHS Test & Trace  
Deputy Director, Public Health England  
Consultant in Infectious Diseases & Microbiology, Royal Free, London