



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

26th March, 2021

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

Easter—a time to Rejoice in Hope!

For far too long now, I have written to you at the end of a term and commented about it being a strange term. This term is no different—we've come to the end of another challenging term! There is so much of which we should all feel very proud, however, because together we have worked to ensure that our children continue to thrive. The way parents and staff worked to make remote learning work has been nothing short of incredible, and your children have successfully returned to school, picking up where they left off. We have a wonderful school family here—thank you to all of you for everything you have done.

We now go off to enjoy a two week break, during which many of us will celebrate Easter. This is a time of light and hope—we see the days getting longer (don't forget the clocks go forward on Sunday!), we see new life all around us in gardens and fields, we see the sun, and we (hopefully) see further restrictions being lifted which will allow us to see more of our friends and family. And, of course, the children (and probably a few adults) will be hopeful for gifts of chocolate eggs! When we return for the summer term, we hope these restrictions will continue to lift and we will be able to see an end to the bubbles we need to operate in school, which will mean we can enjoy our usual summer term events, such as sports day and summer concert.

Easter is such an important time for Christians—Jesus died on the cross, suffering great humiliation and pain. Three days later, emerging from the depths of despair, He rose again from the dead, giving Christians the hope and certainty of eternal life. Hope is more than a simple wish, it is a certainty that we will emerge from darkness into the light that Christ brings.

However you celebrate Easter this year, I hope you are able to rest and recover, I hope you are able to enjoy spending time with your loved ones, and I hope you continue to stay safe and well. And, I look forward to a summer term where we can all continue to reconnect and build back some normality into our lives.

Remember that children return to school on Tuesday, 13th April –we look forward to seeing them all then!

With all good wishes for a joyful and happy Easter,

Maria & all of the team at St James'



COVID INFORMATION

Easter holidays Contact Tracing—Please inform the school of a positive case where symptoms developed within 48 hours of being in school. This means that if symptoms have developed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, and there is a confirmed positive COVID test (PCR), you will need to notify the school so that close contacts can be informed.

You should notify the school by emailing head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

This email will be checked **daily at 10am until Thursday, 1st April**. If close contacts are identified, they will be notified via a short message on Marvellous Me, with more details made available on the relevant class pages on the school website. If symptoms develop more than 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to notify the school, although will still need to take a test and follow self-isolation rules.

Free School Meals Easter Holidays—vouchers will be issued via Bedford Borough Council, as previously done at Christmas and Half Term. Any queries or problems, please contact Bedford Borough Council, which runs this scheme.

Please remember that, although restrictions are being lifted, the virus is still with us and we all need to take care to limit contact—we really don't want another lockdown! Stay well.

Easter Challenge—Rock Art



The children have been set an Easter holiday challenge....to create Easter scenes using rocks. This challenge is inspired by Patti Rokus, who uses rocks to tell different Christian stories. Please send photographs of any rock stories created by your children to head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk and I will collate these and share them in the newsletter and on Twitter.

This video shows some examples of her work:

<https://youtu.be/pfNNYmOogRo> There are lots of other videos on

Youtube for ideas and suggestions, just search Patti Rokus rock art.

I look forward to seeing your children's art work!



Staffing Update

Sadly, we say farewell to two members of staff today. Mrs Botrugno is leaving St James' for personal reasons—she has been working with our Year 1 class for two years now and has been a wonderful support for our children and a lovely colleague to work alongside. Miss Ross has been with us since January, working with our Year 6 children, and leaves us to take up a new, full time post. We wish both Linda and Katie the very best as they move on and are grateful for all their work during their time with us. Recruitment for these vacancies is underway.

Music Lessons

Violin/Recorders and Piano lessons taken by Heather Bourne from the COOP will resume every Wednesday after the Easter Holidays starting on 14th April.

Clare Sugars continues to take key stage 2 piano lessons every Tuesday morning.

Marc Patching will return after the Easter holidays to take guitar lessons—we will send a message via Groupcall once Marc has confirmed the day he will be in school. We will inform you once drum lessons are back up and running.

Comic Relief

Thank you for your donations towards Comic Relief. We have had a count up from all the hand written notes and we are delighted to say that St James' donated approximately **£246.50** online. Thank you.

Pre-Loved Uniform and Old Coins!

Don't forget the pre-loved uniform shop over the Easter holidays. If you'd like to buy uniform please check out the stock sheet on Classlist or contact Fiona Mitchell via Classlist for more info. If you'd like to donate outgrown uniform, please drop it off in the PSA bin by the pedestrian gate at anytime over the holidays.

We are also still collecting any old or foreign currency, coins and notes, for Cash4Coins. Please contact Fiona Mitchell via Classlist.



QUIZ

The Friends of St James' Biddenham

Saturday 17th April 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Our second online Zoom quiz with a Spring flavour! Suitable for all the family.

Free entry – but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/stjamespringquiz

To register and for participation details, email John Barkas at: stjamesquiz@mail.com (alternatively phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn



SEND MATTERS

ISSUE 6 - MARCH 2021

Easter Holidays edition

The official newsletter of SEND related issues in Bedford Borough

Inside this issue:

- Easter Holiday Activities
- Meet the Team: SEND Team
- Preparing for Transition to Adulthood Guide
- BBPCF Outcomes Report
- Inclusive Playgrounds

https://search3.openobjects.com/media-manager/bedford/directory/files/send_matters_easter_holidays_final.pdf



[St James' Church, Biddenham News Sheet](#)

[Easter Egg Hunt Form](#)

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Parents or carers will need to provide a copy of the Advice to Self Isolate letter sent from school as evidence that their child is required to self-isolate.

Once an application for a payment has been received, the local authority will be in touch with the school to verify the details of the child provided on the application. This will include a check of the child's name, age, address and days of self-isolation. This check is to minimise the event of fraudulent claims. It may be conducted before or after a payment is made, depending on the arrangements the individual local authority has chosen to put in place. setting if they apply for a payment.