



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 28th May, 2021

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

We've reached the end of another term and it looks like the weather is set to be very kind to us as we move into our half term break. Sadly, 3 classes have not been with us this week, due to positive COVID cases—please ensure that those children who are at home continue to self-isolate until the dates stated in your letters. Cases in Bedford remain incredibly high and we all need to follow PHE advice—if we don't, positive cases will continue and we'll return after half term with the very real possibility of having to close more classes.

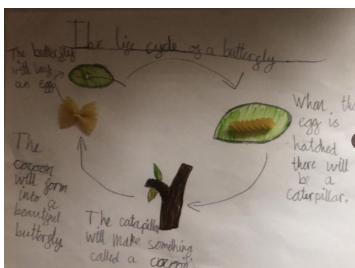
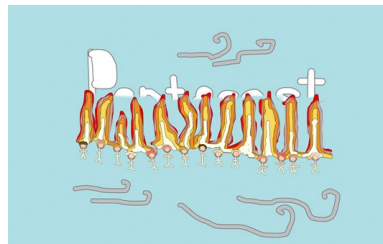
Your children are incredible in the way they cope with the disappointment of having to stay at home, and they have moved to remote learning easily and effectively. There's some great learning happening at home and we're all so impressed with their resilience and 'can do' approach. Thank you to all of you who have supported them so positively! In school, it's felt strange having such a large chunk of our family missing—Peacocks Class are feeling very lonely in the Aviary building!

Our robins chicks seem to be doing well—I think there's 4 of them. I've posted a few short videos of the chicks being fed on my Twitter feed, so do have a look! Year 3 children discovered what they originally thought was a cocoon, but when we looked more closely discovered it was actually a moth (a poplar hawk moth, as Mrs Morton has reliably informed me) - an incredible creature! Canaries have been working incredibly hard at home, writing some fantastic stories, thinking about healthy eating and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. Kingfishers have also been working hard at home, learning all about the Stone Age; I've really enjoyed sharing their enthusiasm for their learning. It's also been great to see so many children join us for assemblies this week, where we've enjoyed a bit of singing together and thinking about the Holy Trinity in readiness for Trinity Sunday this weekend.

It's been a long, difficult term, but we've made it to the end—I wish you all a happy, peaceful and COVID-free half term. May God bless you all,

Maria & all the team at St James'

A p... night started to draw
closer time was running out
to find water food and shelter
s... suddenly I was chased by a tiger
behind an orange tree. Then
I found a river I was about
to drink when a crocodile
erupted. I found a civilization
I was on Hawaii. The police started
chasing me, I ran into the
jungle. Suddenly I was
chased by a bad pig cat
alive spear which wanted to eat
me. Luckily I was rescued by
space dinosaurs. The space dinosaurs
took me home. Then I woke up.
It was all a dream.



COVID Update

Please read the attached letter from the Director of Public Health—it contains very important advice and information.

Over half term, I will continue to be responsible for Track and Trace. You must advise me if your child tests positive for COVID where their symptoms first appeared within 48 hours of being in school. If your child tests positive:

- Email head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk
- Include details of when PCR test was taken/positive case confirmed, as well as details about when symptoms first appeared (if any) - **the date of symptoms is very important**
- I will be checking my emails at 8.00am each day. Any notifications received after this time will not be considered until the following day
- If your child is a close contact of a positive case, then you will be informed via GroupCall and your child will be required to self-isolate for 10 days
- In most situations, the last day for reporting to me will be Tuesday, but if your child tests positive later in the week but first displayed symptoms on Saturday/Sunday, then you will still need to re-report
- If in any doubt, report your child's positive test and I will risk assess, with PHE advice and support where necessary.

Please do not return to school after half term if your child has been told to self-isolate, or has any symptoms (including the lesser symptoms) or has tested positive.

If your child is told to self-isolate, they must do so for the full 10 days, even if they receive a negative PCR test result.

Open the HomeTime Cupboard

Are you worried that you've missed some of our delicious BookTrust HomeTime treats? Don't worry - we've saved them all here for you to enjoy whenever you like!

Below, you'll find brilliant authors reading their stories, illustrators teaching you how to draw some of their top characters, great activities to try, and lots of other stuff too. So dive in and have fun!

Please note: We sometimes link to third party sites, including YouTube, so children should not use HomeTime unsupervised.



Some lovely activities can be found [here](#), which your children may enjoy over the half term break....

Half Term Family Activities at The Higgins Bedford

Join Little Science Lab this half term for fantastic online science experiments and visit The Higgins Bedford to have a go at a fun new I-Spy trail. Children are invited to join online hands-on experiments from Wednesday 2 – Friday 4 June from the comfort of home. Workshops include dissecting owl pellets to discover what owls like to eat, exploring the world of sound to make whistles and creating rainbow towers using chemistry. There will be two sessions running for each workshop at 10 and 11am, each will cost £5 per child (kit included). Workshops are online via Zoom and will last for approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Each workshop is limited to 15 places and is suitable for children aged 5 and above. All workshops include pre-prepared kits provided by Little Science Lab with the materials needed. They can be collected from The Higgins Bedford's front desk from 25 May during opening hours. Proof of purchase will be required when collecting the kits.

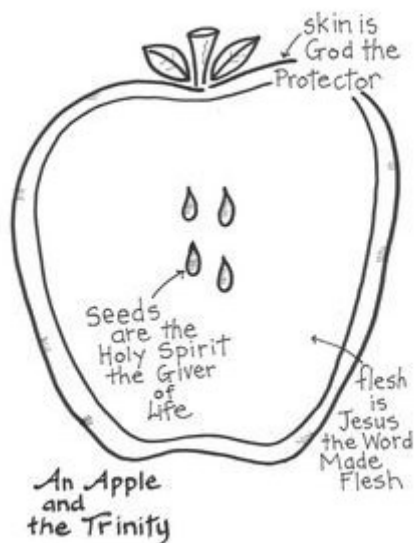
Bookings can be made on The Higgins Bedford website at www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk or by calling the Box Office at 01234 718044. Bookings will close on 31 May.

Summer Term Dates Ahead
(COVID restrictions may apply)

31st May-4th June Half Term

Monday 7th June Term 6 starts

16th June	Welcome Meeting for Parents of children starting school in September
18th June	INSET School closed
2nd July	Sports Day (provisional date, at the moment, will confirm ASAP)
6th July	Y6 Transition Days for Lincroft and Sharnbrook Academies
13th July	Parents evening (drop in, to discuss end of year reports)
14th July	Moving Up morning—time in new classes
20th July	Proms in the Playground—whole school celebration 5pm
21st July	Leaver's Service 2.00
22nd July	Last day of term



Fully understanding the Trinity is tricky, but for Christians there is joy and thanksgiving for the love which God shows, and the great gifts and blessings He bestows on His people, and we remember God as our father and creator, Jesus as our saviour and the Holy Spirit as our comforter.

The Holy Trinity

On Sunday, Christians around the world will be focused on the Holy Trinity.

In assembly this week, we have been exploring what the Trinity is, and the concept that Christians believe in one God, who reveals Himself in different ways. We used an apple to illustrate this—an apple has 3 parts: the skin which protects the fruit, the flesh inside is the really tasty, juicy part, and the seeds in the middle which support new life and growth. Like an apple, God reveals Himself in 3 ways: God the Father and Protector, Jesus who came to Earth and took on flesh, and the Holy Spirit which fills us and bring us new life.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14



Please ask for:	Vicky Head
Direct line:	01234 276878
E-mail:	Bmso.publichealth@bedford.gov.uk
Date:	27 May 2021
Ref:	VH/Ltrs/May2021

Dear Parent/Carer

An important message from Vicky Head, Director of Public Health

I'm sure you are aware that the rate of COVID-19 infections in Bedford Borough is rising and is currently the third highest in England. The infection rate is highest among secondary school aged children, but rising in all age groups. The new COVID-19 variant of concern first identified in India (known as VOC-21APR-02 or B.1.617.2) is responsible for most of our infections and evidence suggests that this variant spreads more easily than previous strains. Whilst we are concerned about this new variant, there is little evidence at present to suggest it causes more severe illness or makes the vaccines less effective.

To tackle the rising cases we are working closely with Public Health England to undertake surge testing in our most affected areas, and we are working with the NHS to increase the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The emergence of this new variant in Bedford Borough, and the speed at which it has spread is a reminder that we must all continue to be cautious and do what we can to control the spread of the virus.

There are **6 key things** you can do to help:

1. Please be cautious over the half-term week. If you are meeting with friends and family please do so outdoors where possible and avoid crowded places. If you do meet indoors then please continue to social distance, let fresh air in and wear face coverings when required to do so. Please encourage your children to do the same.
2. Please watch out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your family. If someone in your family is unwell, please keep them at home and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Financial support to isolate is available for households with low income. Find out more at <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/covid19> or by calling 01234 718020.
3. People who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive should also self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible. Please book a PCR test for all close contacts at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Financial support to isolate is available for households with low income. Find out more at <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/covid19> or by calling 01234 718020.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EVEN IF THE RESULT OF THAT PCR TEST IS NEGATIVE, ALL CLOSE CONTACTS WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO ISOLATE FOR THEIR FULL 10 DAYS.

4. If you live in Kingsbrook, Cauldwell or Queens Park wards, and have not had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days please get a PCR test from one of our special surge testing sites. More information on surge testing locations and opening times is available at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/covid19>.
5. Secondary school-age students should continue with twice weekly LFD testing over the half-term week. This will help to minimise any further disruption to education once they return to school. Adults are also encouraged to take part in twice weekly LFD testing. LFD tests are available from a [range of locations](#) including local libraries, pharmacies and our testing site at the Faraday Community Centre in Cauldwell. You can also order home testing kits online at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.
6. If you are eligible for vaccination, please book it as soon as you can. Appointments are now available for everyone aged 30 and over, and drop-in clinics are also available for over 40s getting their first doses. You can book via the [national book system](#) or by calling 119. Alternatively, Bedford Borough residents who you would like to be vaccinated at Kings House or the Guru Nanak Gurdwara can use the [local booking system](#) or call 01234 718077. More information on eligibility for the local clinics, drop-in clinics for the over 40s, and second doses is available [here](#).

We will continue to work with our schools and colleges to ensure they remain as safe as possible for our children, young people and staff.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Head
Director of Public Health



Children's Community Health HUB

Your one stop contact point

0300 555 0606

ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

Open 9am-5pm every weekday (excluding BH)

New contact number and email address for the Beds and Luton 0-19 services, including:

- Health Visiting
- School Nursing

New contact number for:

- Luton Community Paediatric services (Edwin Lobo Centre)
- Beds and Luton Looked after Children's services

Health HUB - a single contact point, making it easier for you to get in touch with us.

