



### **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**

### **11th June, 2021**

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

I hope you all enjoyed your half term breaks, and managed to have some much needed R&R. I'm afraid we start another term with uncertainty—it's looking increasingly likely that we will not be able to change our bubble arrangements in school any time soon, which will mean that events such as Sports Day won't be able to happen as we would like. Obviously, we will be keeping a close eye on all national and local announcements, but it is only right that I warn you that there may be more cancellations and last minute changes ahead. On the upside, the warm and dry weather has meant that we are able to have some of our assemblies outside, with class bubbles socially distanced. It really has been lovely to just be together again!

COVID is very much still a huge concern, and just before half term, we had to send 3 of our classes home. We really don't want to be doing this, so ask you all to be incredibly cautious—if your child is unwell with any of the major or lesser symptoms of COVID, please keep them at home. This new variant is transmitted quickly, and seems to be affecting younger people and children more than earlier variants. What we saw last term was that it only took one positive case to close the entire class bubble. Unfortunately, Mrs Corby has become unwell also, and is absent from school, and as I write I am unsure when she will return; in the meantime, Miss Robson will continue to work with Year 4, providing stability and continuity. We really need ALL our families to be responsible and consider the wider impact of any decisions they make. I appreciate that in most cases your child's headache or stomach ache won't be a COVID symptom, but please err on the side of caution just in case it is.

There is now a requirement for schools to develop a Relationships and Sex Education policy, and consult with parents about this, ready for full implementation from September. The policy is available for parents to view on our website: [St James'CE VA Primary School - School Policies \(stjamesvalower.org.uk\)](https://stjamesvalower.org.uk). It is our proposal not to teach Sex Education, however, we are required to teach puberty and reproduction through the statutory science curriculum. Governors have considered the policy and are keen for parents to be fully consulted so that all views and comments may be considered. To facilitate this, we will be holding an information evening via your child's Teams account next Thursday, 16th June at 6.00, when we will explain our proposed policy and curriculum. There is also an online survey for you to complete, where you can share your views and ask questions: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PXG6NPD> (this survey will close on Sunday, 20th June)

We have welcomed a new member of staff to the St James' family this week—Ms Nicola Grey joins us as a Learning Support Assistant, based in Year 6. I know she has enjoyed her first week with the children, who have, as always, welcomed her with open arms.

Across the school there has been lots of busyness—and some stillness as children have enjoyed yoga sessions, delivered by colleagues from the School Sports Partnership. Children in Year 5 have received some leadership training and are using learnt skills to plan a special project for Robins, to be delivered later in the term. This term's Curriculum News have been sent home today, giving you a flavour of what is planned for the coming term—even if we do have to cancel our usual summer term 'big events', there is still lots going on for the children to enjoy.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

### COVID Update

Please remember to keep your child at home if they show any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

We know that some children experience allergies/hayfever at this time of year, which may lead to coughing. We ask that if your child starts to cough, that you arrange for a COVID test, just in case; likewise, if staff notice a new cough, we will ask you to collect your child from school. We know we might be being ultra-cautious here, but we just want to make sure we can keep everyone safe. Other possible symptoms are shown below—if your child displays any of these, even if your best judgement is that it's not COVID-related, please get it checked out. Thank you!

Symptom	Coronavirus <i>Symptoms can range from mild to severe</i>
Fever	COMMON
Fatigue	SOMETIMES
Cough	COMMON
Loss of taste/smell	COMMON
Sneezing	NO
Aches & pains	SOMETIMES
Runny or stuff nose	RARE
Sore throat	SOMETIMES
Diarrhoea	RARE
Headache	SOMETIMES
Shortness of breath	SOMETIMES

**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.**

#### **Drop-In Pfizer Vaccinations For All Over 18s In Bedford Borough This Saturday**

First doses of the Pfizer vaccine are available to all Bedford Borough residents over 18, with no need to book, this Saturday from 1pm to 7pm at the Guru Nanak Temple in Queens Park. Bedford Borough has one of the highest rates of infection in the country and getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect each other and stop the virus spreading.

To make it easier for people to get vaccinated the trained staff at the Guru Nanak Temple will be offering the vaccination to everyone that turns up, enabling more people to access the vaccine.

If you can't make it on Saturday anyone over 18 can still book to get the vaccine at either the temple or Kings house on Ampthill Road via the website [www.bedford.gov.uk/vaccinations](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/vaccinations) or by calling 01234 718077.

**Summer Term Dates Ahead**  
**(COVID restrictions may apply)**

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	<b>Y6 Transition Days for Lincroft and Sharnbrook Academies—we've been informed that these have now been cancelled</b>
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

**Please remember next Friday is an INSET Day—school is closed to all pupils.**

**A Rainbow always appears in the clouds**



Why is the rainbow such an important symbol in our school? Well, simply, it's a sign of love—of God's love for us, of our love for your children which we hope helps them to learn to love one another.

In Genesis, we read that God placed a rainbow in the clouds for Noah, as a sign of His covenant (promise) between Him and all the Earth. At St James', we believe that we are all loved by God, as His precious children. We want all of our children to know that they are loved because they are our precious children—we teach them as well as we can, because we love them; we have high expectations for behaviour, because we love them; we want them to respect, understand and value other people and points of view, because we love them; we want them to go from this school as confident, curious, independent and kind people, ready to take on the challenges

that will come, because we love them. We want your children to grow up in an atmosphere of love and care, a place where they know they belong, they are safe and where they are known.

We might not always see the rainbow, which is that symbol of love, but it is always there, hidden in those clouds.



**SSG**

# Summer HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2021

6 WEEKS OF FUN RUNNING 26TH JULY – 3RD SEPTEMBER

## ACTIVE CHILDCARE

OUR ACTIVE CHILDCARE DAYS ARE MADE UP OF THESE SIX ELEMENTS

- DAILY THEMES
- ADVENTURE & CHALLENGE
- WACKY CRAFTS
- INFLATION FUN
- ACTIVE PLAY
- MULTI-SPORTS

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED  
FREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS  
GOVERNMENT TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

## EXPERIENCE DAYS

RUNNING AT VARIOUS VENUES ACROSS BEDFORDSHIRE

**BOOK NOW LIMITED SPACES**

**SSG**  
Email: info@ssgservices.co.uk  
Call us on: 01234 340782  
Book online: SSGservices.co.uk

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### Alan Jacobs – A Big Thank You!

A kind resident of Biddenham, Alan Jacobs donated his old foreign currency to the school from his travels over the years. Part of the donation included some Australian Dollars. Due to his generosity, we were able to convert the currency and collected £381.91! We were lost for words and could not believe how much he had donated, we even paid Mr Jacobs a visit to see if he was sure he wanted to donate this large amount of money. Mr Jacobs repeatedly made it clear that he wanted the school to have this as we would benefit from this so much more. A big thank you to Alan Jacobs from all the children and staff at St James' Primary School.

If any of you know Alan, please remember to share our sincere thanks—it really does take a village to raise a child!



Bring a sun hat to school—MAPAC sells these if needed. Ensure sunhats are named

Apply long-lasting sun screen before school. Children should not bring sunscreen into school and staff can not apply sunscreen—we just don't have the logistical capacity to do this.

Light, long sleeved 'cardigans' may be worn outside on the hottest of days

Bring a water bottle to school (named)

Children must wear appropriate footwear and socks—no flipflops/open toed sandals

### Relationships & Sex Education Parents Meeting

Thursday 17th June, 6.00-7.00, via your child's Teams account. Please access the meeting via the Whole School 'General' Channel—see screenshot below. This meeting is not appropriate for children, and must not be recorded.

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3a70afb5a0a51e4c69a2c8501ef50402a0%40thread.tacv2/1623246527408?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225473bb8f-c64c-4108-8d27-e140a19e5599%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e8cce415-806f-4f01-9b88-feb66d2cac6a%22%7d>