



### 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 24th September, 2021

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

Our Robins have enjoyed their first full week of whole days at school and they've done exceptionally well. We are all very impressed with how well they've settled into school, learning new routines and making new friends—well done to them all!

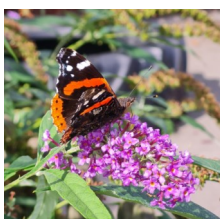
Elsewhere across the school, we are seeing very highly motivated children who are so focussed on their learning. Kingfishers have been extremely busy in their learning—researching different time periods in history and sequencing them in chronological order, thinking about the ways in which they work together as a class team, and exploring all the 'wow' factors in our world. Canaries have been busy developing their computing skills and discovered a beautiful butterfly on our buddleia and Sabrewings have investigated how light travels.

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to join us for the phonics and reading session on Wednesday. I understand that there are many more of you who were unable to make this session, so we have uploaded the presentation onto the school website, along with some other helpful documents to support you in helping your child with their reading: [St James'CE VA Primary School - Reading \(stjamesvalower.org.uk\)](https://stjamesvalower.org.uk). We are also looking to arrange a time when our presentation can be repeated via Teams one evening, so that those of you who were unable to come along can still access the information. It's always difficult to find times for these sessions that meet everyone's needs—working parents, tea and bedtime routines for children, staff—no one date/time will work for everyone, but we do try our best for you.

Next week is Bike to School week, and bearing in mind the awful traffic situation on the roads at the moment, and particularly the chaos outside school this morning, there has never been a better time to reconsider your journeys to school...

It looks like we're in for some lovely Autumnal weather this weekend, which I think we all deserve—do enjoy your time together, rest well and we'll look forward to another great week together,

Maria & all the St James' team



Last week I wrote to you about driving to and from school and I asked all drivers to avoid parking in front of the school. I invited everyone to consider other options and asked you to exercise more care, caution and patience. **Thank you to all of you who read this note and have made changes to your routines—it really is appreciated.**

Unfortunately, not everyone has. On Monday, I received an email from one of our neighbours who was extremely upset because for the 3rd time this term, her drive has been blocked by one of our parents (please see below a copy of her email) And then this morning, there was complete chaos on Main Road, partly caused by already parked cars by the War Memorial, but also caused by some of you stopping on the yellow zig zag lines to drop children off (illegal) and stopping at the end of the school drive to drop children off (unsafe for pedestrians.) Earlier this week, one of our ex-pupils was involved in an accident on the roads, which saw him air lifted to hospital; fortunately, he is recovering at home now. But, one day, if you continue to drive the way you do, it will be one of our children.

**If you are a car driver, you MUST start to show much more awareness and commitment to keeping the road outside our school safe for everyone, and you must stop putting your needs above everyone else's, because if you don't, something awful is going to happen. You must consider parking and striding—park a bit further away from school and walk the last bit; you'll probably get to school more quickly because you won't be stuck in the traffic!**

*Good morning,*

*Further to my telephone conversation with a member of your team this morning outside of the school gates, please find attached photographs of the inconsiderate parking displayed by this parent today outside of my house at 42 Main Road.*

*Since school has returned this month, my fiancé and I have had our driveway blocked on 3 occasions by parents of your pupils.*

*This morning, I waited for the lady to return to her car and asked her politely not to block my driveway. Instead of apologising, she simply stated that she did not realise that it was a driveway. As you can see from the attached photographs, that is very difficult to comprehend.*

*Whilst I appreciate that the school likely reinforces the requirement for considerate parking in the area, I would please ask that you circulate a further comms to the parents reiterating this point and explaining that it is in fact an offence to park a car that blocks a dropped kerb driveway. I am of course more than happy for you to use the attached photograph as a perfect example of what this actually looks like!*

*I will be forwarding these photographs to the Council and asking them to undertake Civil Parking Enforcement accordingly and will continue to do so on each occasion that my driveway is blocked.*

*Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.*



## Upcoming Dates

<b>Weds 29th Sept</b>	10.30 School Nurse Height & Weight checks for Y6
<b>Weds 6th Oct</b>	Individual School photos 2.00 Harvest Service—parents will be able to log in remotely to share in this service
<b>Friday, 8th Oct</b>	Deadline for returning Vision Screening Questionnaire (Robins class)
<b>Weds 13th Oct</b>	5.30 KS2 SATs Information session for parents—all parents are able to attend but is most suitable for parents of Year 6 children
<b>Friday 15th Oct</b>	2.00 Sabrewings Class Assembly
<b>Fri 22nd Oct</b>	3.00 Book Blink—an opportunity for parents to come into class for children to share their books with them (this is COVID dependant and may be cancelled/postponed) 2.30 Peacocks Class Assembly
<b>25th-29th October</b>	HALF TERM



## Pupil Governor Elections

We are very excited to inform you that we will be holding an **election** to choose our new Pupil Governors, on Thursday 30th September. Pupil Governors work across the school to help the adults make our school even better; they also think about our values and think of ways in which we can help people beyond our school walls. They have a big responsibility so need to have organisational skills as well as be willing to give up their time.

2 children will be elected from each class in Years 1 to 6. If your child would like to stand for election, they will need to prepare a speech about why they would be a good Pupil Governor and reasons to convince their classmates to vote for them. They could even prepare posters to be displayed in election week in their own classroom! Candidates will need to be prepared to share their speech with their classmates in the week commencing Monday 27th September, as voting will take place on Thursday 30th October.

Good luck to all our potential candidates!

## **Movement around the school site**

Thank you to everyone who wears a face covering when on the school site. Please remember we have a one way system still in operation—please make sure that anyone new to picking up/dropping off your child is aware of this. Please do not bring bikes and scooters into the school—these need to be left outside school. Dogs should not be brought into school; if you leave your dog tied up outside school, please make sure they are away from the main entrances/exits—many children are nervous of dogs, even the very calm, placid ones. Thank you for helping to keep us all safe.

## COVID

Please remember that if your child shows any COVID symptoms you must keep them at home and arrange for them to take a PCR test. Please also be aware of the minor symptoms. If you are in any doubt, please keep your child away from school. If your child displays any of the listed COVID symptoms, we will isolate them from others and contact you to arrange collection.

We have had a few positive cases reported this week, and have taken action in school to try and mitigate further transmission, but we ask all of you to continue to be cautious and vigilant. We are so grateful to those of you who are taking sensible steps and keeping us updated with test results—we have far more reports of negative tests than positives, which is good.

We will tell you if there's a positive case in your child's class, but obviously won't identify individuals—we do this so you can take any extra caution you feel important, and to ensure that you are aware of facts rather than subject to second/third hand messages which are often unclear or factually incorrect.

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

Message from Caterlink.... We have noticed that a number of parents have had some issues with being able to top up their accounts recently. Further to a conversation with our meals team, they have requested that any queries be passed onto them directly. Therefore, if you could provide any relevant parents with the following email address, [meals@wsh.group.co.uk](mailto:meals@wsh.group.co.uk), I would very much appreciate it.

Kind Regards,

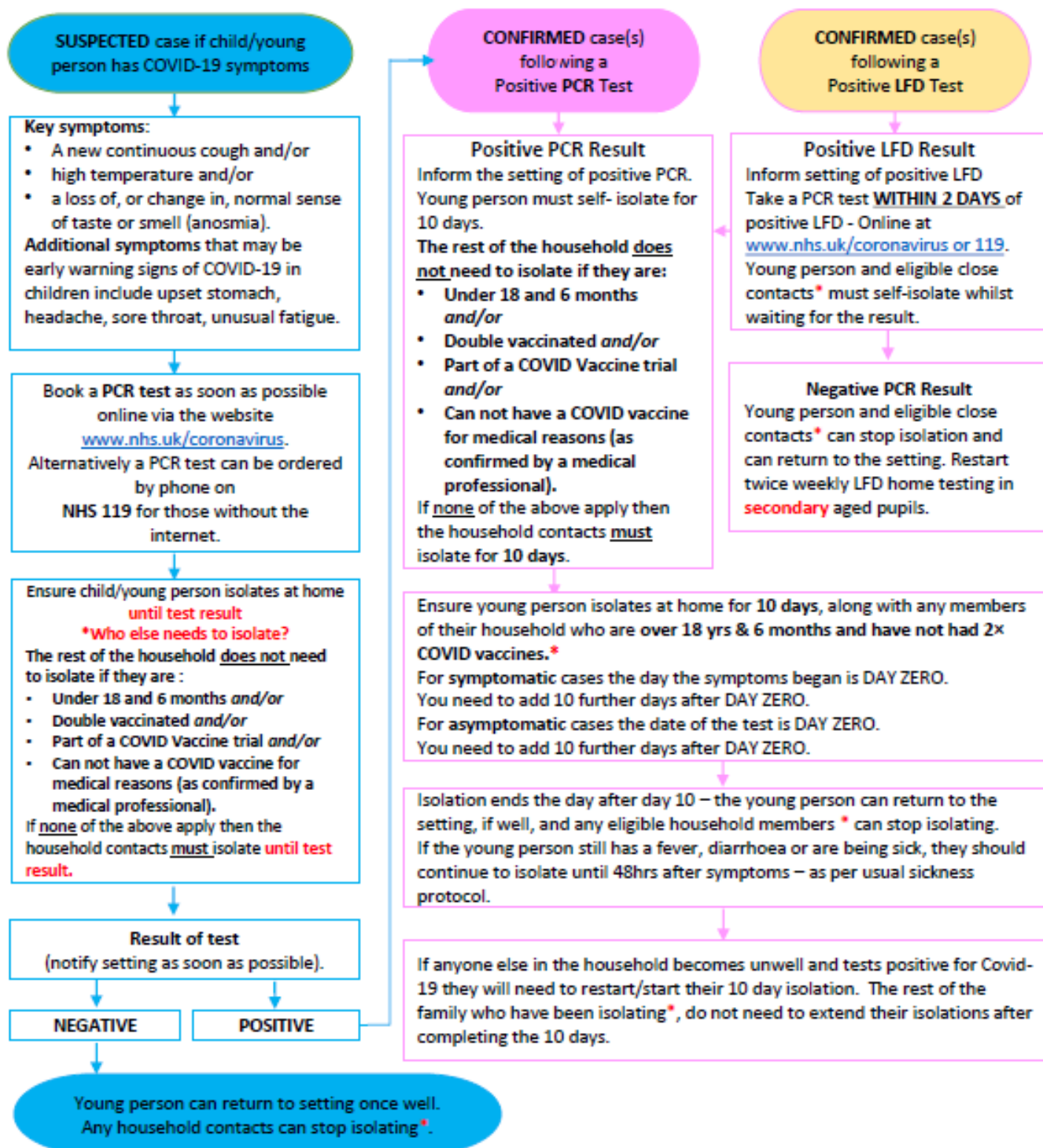
**Tandsy Cranston**

Lead Cashier



## COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers in Bedford Borough Education Settings From 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021


For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a young person please follow the flow chart below.




- We continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear masks in crowded, public indoor areas.
- Masks are to be worn on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available after 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms. Individuals may choose to take a LFD test after the isolation period.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms and should not be used if you have any symptoms.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have been identified as an eligible close contact\* of a positive case, a negative LFD test does not mean you can stop isolating.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test.

## Vision Screen Questionnaire

Reception Class Only. Your child will be having their vision screened as part of the Healthy Child Programme this academic year. Please complete the questionnaire that has been sent home with your child today. Please return the completed questionnaire back to the school no later than **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.





# Bedford KIDS CHORUS

**AGE 7–11**

**A new creative singing group  
for primary school students**

**Meet new friends &  
enjoy singing together**

**Tuesdays 4:30-5:30**

**£20 Per Term**  
[www.bedfordmusichub.org.uk](http://www.bedfordmusichub.org.uk)

**Folk Songs Rock & Pop ABBA Adele Choral Classics**  
**Musical Theatre Motown Hits Harmony Singing**  
**and much more...**

**Castle Newnham School every Tuesday**  
**email: [music@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:music@bedford.gov.uk) or call 01234 718088 for more info**

### Friday Flyers—Friday nights at Castle Newnham School

4.30pm	5.15pm	5.30pm	5.45pm	6.15pm	6.45pm	7pm—9pm
Junior Strings (Gr 1—3)						
		Junior Wind Band (Gr 1—3)				
		Intermediate Wind Band (Gr 4-6)				
		Intermediate Strings (Gr 3—5)				
						NBYCO by teacher recommendation / audition

### Saturday Morning Music Centre— Saturday mornings at Castle Newnham School

	9.00	9.30— 9.35	9.35—10.20	10.20— 10.25	10.25—11.10	11.10— 11.15	11.15—12.00	
			Musicianship 2		Junior Jazz			
	LTP Wind		Beginner Wind				Mixed Ensemble	
	Early years 3—4		Choir 1		Music is Fun (beginner Musicianship group)		Early Years 5—6	
	LTP Strings		Recorder Ensemble		Musicianship 1		String Ensemble	
	LTP Drums		Beginner Percussion		Drum Concepts		Junior Percussion	
	LTP Keyboard		Beginner keyboard Ensemble		Choir 2		Junior keyboard Ensemble	
	Set up for Rock Band		Junior rock Band					
	LTP guitar		LTP bass guitar		Beginner Rock Band			
	Introduction to Garage band		Composing / Songwriting on iPad					

## Family Support Co-ordinator



Hello! My name is Donna Gower and I am the Family Support Co-ordinator in school.

My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour, mental health and wellbeing.

I am also here as someone to talk to if you need it!  
I can meet with you in school or at home at a time to suit yourself.

Advice and support is confidential although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

I may not have all the answers, but hopefully I can help you to work out how to find them!

I can be contacted via telephone: 07984 551188 or via the school office.

Email: [familysupport@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:familysupport@stjamesvaschool.co.uk)

I look forward to supporting you.

*Donna*



**Bike to School Week 2021**  
**27<sup>th</sup> September – 1 October**

Be active and feel more energised  
Help the environment by replacing a car journey  
Improve local air quality and reduce congestion

Let Sustrans know you family is cycling or scooting to school to be in with a chance of winning a Frog bike.

Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek/pledge](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek/pledge)

On Wednesday, next week, we have a very special guest visiting, so bring your bike!



### **Harvest Festival**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 @ 2pm on TEAMS**

Come and help celebrate the harvest virtually with St James' Primary School—please log in via your child's Teams account.

This year the decision was made to donate to the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal which aims to support the 'Water is Life' project to help change the lives of so many in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

You can donate at <https://www.tearfund.org/get-involved/donate>



## Information Sheet Transfer to Secondary School 2022

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting secondary school (Year 7) in September 2022 explains how to apply for a secondary school place for a child born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

All the information you need to apply for a secondary school place is available on our website [www.bedford.gov.uk/secondarytransfer](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/secondarytransfer). It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, School Transfer 2022, which explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at [www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer. An application form can be downloaded from our website or requested by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: [admissions@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@bedford.gov.uk) tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must apply to your home Local Authority. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 31 October 2021

### Secondary School Admissions Timetable

**September 2021**  
We will send you information on secondary school transfers through your child's current school.

**September/October 2021**  
Schools will hold their open days / evenings. Details are overleaf.

**31 October 2021**  
Last day for applications.

**1 March 2022**  
If you have applied online you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied online we will post a letter to you on this day.

## COMMUNITY MINDED THROUGH DRIVE AND ASPIRATION

Join us at our Year 6 into Year 7

# TRANSITION EVENTS

for Admissions in September 2022



Mr Deller, Head Teacher will be hosting the following events for Year 6 students transitioning to Bedford Academy in September 2022. Come and see why we think our school could be the right choice for your child's secondary education!

These events are an ideal opportunity to meet our fantastic staff, ask questions of our team and tour our amazing building and facilities.

### 1. Q&A VIRTUAL EVENT

Wednesday, 29th September  
from 6 – 7pm

Click here on the night:  
[Transition Virtual Q&A Event](#)

Part of the



### 2. OPEN EVENING

Wednesday, 6th October  
from 6pm - 7.30pm

### 3. OPEN MORNING

Saturday, 9th October  
from 9am – 12pm

Bedford Academy • Mile Road • Bedford • MK42 9TR  
t: 01234 301500 • e: [info@bedfordacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfordacademy.co.uk)  
[www.bedfordacademy.co.uk](http://www.bedfordacademy.co.uk)  
Company Registration Number: 06969741



### Sharnbrook Academy Open Evening Thursday 7th October 2021

Dear parents and carers of year 6 students,

We are looking forward to welcoming parents, carers and future students to our Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 7th October 2021, 5.30-8.00pm.

Tours of the Academy will be self-directed, beginning at Main Reception, with Student Leaders on hand to support you to find your way around the site and ensure that you don't miss any of our fantastic department areas! Families wishing to attend on the evening for a tour of the academy can arrive on site any time from 5.30pm. We respectfully request that, unless exempt, all adults wear face coverings when moving around the academy to protect our students and staff.

The Principal's Address will be ticketed entry due to venue capacity and will need to be booked in advance. The event will be recorded and streamed online afterwards for any families who are unable to attend, or for those who would feel more comfortable viewing the talk online. Separate tickets must be booked for every person attending, up to a maximum of 3 per family including children. Talks will take place at 5.45pm, 6.30pm and 7.15pm, and tickets can be booked using the following link:

[Sharnbrook Academy Open Evening for admissions 2022 Tickets](#)

Information regarding arrangements for admissions in September 2022 can be found here: [Determined-Admission-Arrangements-for-Sharnbrook-Academy-in-September-2022.pdf](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to Sharnbrook on the 7th October.

Yours faithfully



Clare Raku  
Academy Principal



**CHILD IN YEAR 6?**  
CHOOSING THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL THIS YEAR?  
**OPEN EVENING ON MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER**  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



**Biddenham**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE  
[www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk](http://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk)  
01234 342571 Find us on 

**Biddenham Staff and Students welcome you to our**

**OPEN EVENING**  
on  
**Monday 4th October 2021**  
4.30pm-7.30pm

**No need to book just come and look around**

Recorded talks will be available on our website [www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk](http://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk)  
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available

### LINCROFT ACADEMY Prospective Parents' and Students' Information Evening

Thursday 14th October 2021 – for Great Ouse Primary Academy and St James Primary students

Lincroft Academy would like to welcome the parents of Year 6 students at Great Ouse Primary Academy and St James Primary to join them on Thursday 14th October 2021 to visit our school and meet our staff.

Your child has been given a letter with specific details of the evening and you can also see our school website for further details. Reception doors will open at 5.00pm for a 5.30pm start. The evening will conclude by 6.45pm.

Due to capacity restrictions, we can only allow 2 people plus your child to attend.