



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

14th January, 2022

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

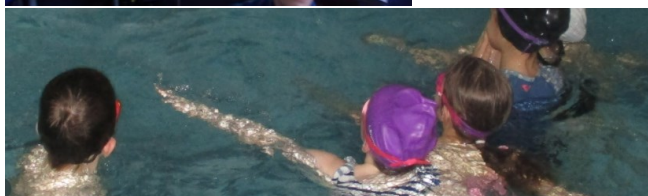
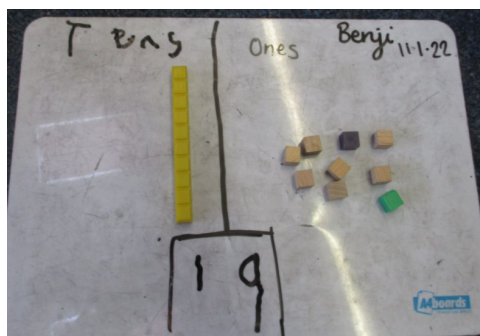
So a full, busy week as the new year really kicks in.

Swimming lessons have started for all children in KS2—thank you for your financial support with paying for the cost of the transport. I know we have had many conversations with parents about swimming this year, with many of you reasonably questioning why your child needs to go swimming at school when they already attend out of school swimming lessons. Swimming is a statutory part of the curriculum, which means that by law, all children have an entitlement and we have to teach it; we also have to make a statutory assessment about whether a child can swim 25m by the end of KS2. We can not, by law, excuse children from swimming on the basis that they access lessons outside of school, and we must ensure that every child receives the full curriculum as set out—If your child had a maths tutor at home, it wouldn't be ok for school to not teach maths. Along with swimming, children in Years 1 and 6 have also started a programme of gymnastics lessons, led by specialist teachers, and our friends at Bedford Blues are back with us to teach rugby in Years 3 and 4. All that, plus the 'usual' PE lessons! Elsewhere, children in Year 1 have been developing their understanding of number and place value and are beginning to work with 2-digit numbers, and Year 6 have visited New York as they start their topic all about the USA (visit courtesy of the VR headsets!).

Unfortunately, we are seeing a significant increase in the numbers of children who are testing positive for COVID. In Year 4, we are having to implement additional measures as the numbers are increasing quite rapidly. Fortunately, no staff have yet tested positive, but I am fairly certain we will start to see staff absences; I'm afraid it's a case of when and not if. Please continue to do everything you do to stay safe and be cautious, and please keep your child away from school if they exhibit any signs of illness—we need all of you to make sensible decisions for the benefit of our whole school family. High numbers of staff absence will mean classes will close to ALL children, including those of you who are key workers; simply put, if I don't have the staff, I can't keep classes open and run the school safely. Whilst I appreciate the inconvenience you may feel if your child is at home, that inconvenience could make all the difference in terms of the wider school family. Thank you!

One final plea—if you phone the school to report your child's absence, please could you just leave a message? The phones are really busy at the moment and it will help Dawn enormously if she can focus on dealing with the COVID-type issues first thing. Your messages are picked up so don't worry about us missing them! Thank you.

I really hope you all stay safe and well this weekend and are able to rest and relax,
Maria & all the team at St James'



ONLINE FAIR PLAY

The Dos and Don'ts of Online Conduct

Alongside individual skill, impressive teamwork and some truly epic matches, one of the most enjoyable things about this summer's European football championships has been the sense of sportsmanship and fair play. Players have competed fiercely, but they've (mostly) remembered that they're representing their country – and that bad behaviour, dangerous play or outright cheating tends to last in people's memories for a long time after tournaments are over. The same is true of how we act online – one error of judgement or loss of control might only take a second, but can have results that are difficult to forget. Instead, just like the heroes of the Euros, we should aim for people to see us and feel proud and inspired. So, in a five-a-side line-up (with five "dos" and five "don'ts"), here are our top tips for playing fair online.



FAIR PLAY



1 Organise your defence

Use strong passwords to protect your personal information, accounts and data. A trusted adult, like a teacher or a relative, can help you choose one that's easy for you to remember but hard for anyone else to guess.



2 Keep possession

Only share personal information online with people you know well, like friends and family. A trusted adult will be able to help you change your online privacy settings so strangers can't find things out about you.



3 Use teamwork

Before you use a device for the first time or download a new app, always check with a trusted adult. They'll be able to check if it's safe for you to use and make sure the privacy settings are right for you.



4 Be respectful

Treat people online like you would treat them in real life. Remember your manners and be polite and kind in your posts, comments and messages.



5 Catch attackers offside

If someone is trying to bully you online, a trusted adult can help you to gather evidence and report that person to the authorities. You should also tell a trusted adult if you see anything online that makes you feel worried, upset, frightened or sad.



FOUL PLAY



1 Don't ignore possible danger

Never accept a friend request from a stranger. If somebody you don't know tries to contact you online, tell a trusted adult straight away.



2 Don't lose control & retaliate

Although it can be tempting, it's best not to respond if someone attempts to bully you online or sends you hurtful messages. Tell a trusted adult what happened, and then block the person from contacting you again in future.



3 Don't hurt people deliberately

It's important to behave online just like you would in real life. Don't post anything that can make you look like a bad person, because the things we put online can stay there for a long time.



4 Don't cheat your way to victory

Don't copy another person's work that you found online or pretend that it's yours. This is called plagiarism and can get you into a lot of trouble.



5 Don't play for extra time

It can be easy to spend too much time online. Instead, take a break to go outside for some fresh air and exercise. Not using your device just before bed will also help you get a good night's sleep so you can be fresh and focused the next day.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Term Dates

Saturday, 15th January Closing Date for Starting School 2022 Admissions
14th-18th February Half Term
Tuesday, 8th March Y4 Multi-sports event at Westfield School
Wednesday, 23rd March KS1 multi-sports event at Biddenham School
Parents/Teacher meetings 4.00-8.30pm
Thursday, 31st March Easter Service 2.00pm
Friday, 1st April End of Term—own clothes, early finish 1.30pm



The Pupil Governors have recommenced their meetings, and have begun planning lots of exciting activities for the Spring Term.

One of the actions they have already taken is a vote; to decide on a charity that they would like to focus on raising money for this term. The Pupil Governors discussed lots of different charities and then voted on which they thought would be the best one to support here at St James. They voted for the 'Make A Wish' charity, and all Governors were very excited to begin planning fundraisers! If you would like to find out more about this charity, please visit the website <https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/charity>

Dawn Until Dusk

Great to see everyone back after what we hope was a peaceful and restful break. We would like to thank you for your kind gifts we received before Christmas and to say we are enjoying a little snack here and there during the session.

We currently have availability across all breakfast clubs.

After school club is very busy on Wednesdays and Thursdays and places will be offered on a first come basis.

There are still slots available on Mon, Tue and Fri in the afternoon.

Please be aware that we require at least 24hrs notice for an AdHoc cancellation otherwise this is still chargeable. Also please ensure that if your child is unable to attend due to sickness for example you will need to contact the club on 07826 100013.

Thank you
Cathy, Jess and Kelly

Dawn until Dusk Ltd

4 Warren Court, Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5QB

Tel:01234 930505 Mobile:07826100013 Email:info@kidsdawntildusk.co.uk

COVID

There is a new flowchart in place, please see attached and ensure that you destroy any previous flowcharts.

Please continue to:

- Wear a face covering on site
- Use the one way system for drop off/pick up
- Limit the number of people who drop off/pick up—where possible, please don't bring lots of other adults/siblings
- Email teachers via the school office email account
- Refer to national guidance regarding testing & isolation
- Refer to the LA flowchart (there is a new one this term, which will be sent out today; however, this is already out of date as the Government have reissued advice)
- Be sensible and cautious—keep your child away from school when they are unwell, even if you think it isn't COVID; there are lots of other viruses circulating and we need to keep those out of school as much as possible

Please start to:

- Ensure you have a negative LFT site ahead of any visits into school, such as appointments or if helping with events
- Use your child's Teams accounts to upload your child's work (rather than sending via the school office)

Gymnastics Club

There are limited spaces available in our Falcon Gymnastics Club. The club runs every Thursday morning, before school starting at 8. am. If you are interested in your child joining the club, please call Dawn in the school office. Places are offered on a first come, first serve basis.

The poster features a blue header with the text "could you foster?". Below this is a photograph of three children (two girls and one boy) smiling and holding up their hands, which are decorated with colorful finger puppets. To the right of the photo is a purple badge that says "Ofsted Outstanding Provider". Below the photo is a red box with white text that reads "we urgently need foster carers in your area". At the bottom left is the "nexus fostering" logo, which includes a stylized figure. To the right of the logo, the text reads: "We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home. Call us on 0800 389 0143 Visit us at www.nexusfostering.co.uk".

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visit pqacademy.com or email/call
gemma.mcdermott@pqacademy.com
07432-301-921
'Be yourself, be amazing'

**FREE
TASTER
SESSION**

PQA
THE PAULINE QUIRKE
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS



One of our parents has asked us to remind all drivers who use the Village Hall car park that the disabled parking space should only be used by those drivers who have a disability. Please remember that not all disabilities can be seen. Thank you for your consideration.

Biddenham Tennis Club

We are pleased to announce Woolfy Tennis will be hosting sessions at Biddenham Tennis club on weekend mornings.

We are offering a free trial to any child who is keen to learn, listen and enjoy improving their tennis and co-ordination. Beginners are also welcome!!

The sessions will run in blocks to coincide with the school term dates. The cost will be £6.50 per session. All children attending will need to join and complete a Biddenham tennis club membership form; costing £8 annually.

Biddenham Tennis Club
Deep Spinney
Biddenham
Bedford
MK40 4PZ

Please contact us to get your free session booked. Do not turn up without booking ahead.
Coach Jonny Woolf

jonny@woolyftennis.co.uk

07880712864

Community Activities/Short Breaks Focus Group

Thursday 13th January - 10am, Saturday 15th January - 10am and Monday 17th January - 7pm

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum are working with Bedford Borough Council to look at local community activities/short breaks/holiday clubs for Bedford Borough families who have children with SEND. We would like to hear from families to gather views about what they would like to see available for their child. What would you like your child with SEND to be able to access?

What do you like about what is on offer currently and why?

What else would you like?

What else could Bedford offer SEND families?

What could be fun and aspirational for families to access in Bedford Borough?

What are the main things families look for when looking at SEND specific activities/groups for their child?

Please book via the links on our website
www.bbpcf.co.uk or email us with your thoughts
communications@bbpcf.org.uk



Autism
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BLUES FOUNDATION.

MULTI-SPORTS

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STARTING 13TH JANUARY 2022
FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE
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Recommended by a parent:

I have seen the below from EE that is a free phone/ online safety course that may be of interest for the future

<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/>

Totally free and a great resource (in my opinion)



The Loop is the parish magazine for Biddenham and Great Denham and contains updates from local organisations, including from time to time St James's church, the parish councils, Biddenham Society, Biddenham Gardeners Association, The Friends of the Pond, Biddenham Cricket Club and other clubs and societies together with articles of local interest and a comprehensive What's On section.

The magazine is published by St James's church and the minimum subscription is £10 per year payable to the PCC. You can choose to receive the magazine by email in colour or in hard copy through your letterbox in black and white.

The Loop: Subscription for 2022

The cost for the planned 10 editions of 2022 is £10.00 or more. *Please consider giving more – all surplus funds support St James's Church.*

How to pay

1. You can pay by bank transfer to:

Account Name Biddenham PCC
Sort Code: 60-02-13
Account Number: 51317745
Reference: 1st line of your address

Please also send an email to loopsubs@gmail.com headed 'Loop subscription paid by bank transfer' and including your name and full address. Please state whether you prefer to receive The Loop by email or have the magazine delivered through your letterbox.

2. You can pay by cash or cheque, please complete this form, put it in an envelope with your payment and deliver or post to:

Richard Harris, 6 Noddars Way, Biddenham, Bedford MK40 4BJ
or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive, Great Denham, Bedford MK40 4BF

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you prefer delivery by email or through your letterbox (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)? Please tick:

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Subscriptions by 31st January 2022, please

Please note that in order to deliver The Loop to you, your details will be held on our electronic database. To keep you informed, we may send you other details about church news and events, including our weekly newsletter. If you would prefer not to receive these, please let us know or click 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of any email that you receive from us.