



### 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 21st January, 2022

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

Unfortunately, we've been hit hard by COVID this week, with many children testing positive and 3 members of our staff team. Although they are unwell, we have had no reports of serious illness, which is a blessing. Unfortunately, when teachers are unwell, they can not work and are therefore unable to support children with any remote learning. Those of us in school will do our best, but there are limits to what we can do. We're grateful for your understanding, and I know all staff are taking all necessary actions which will allow them to return to work as soon as they can.

You will be aware of the Government's announcement to cease all Plan B restrictions from next Thursday, which includes the removal of the requirement to wear face coverings. The Government suggests, however, that face coverings are used in crowded and indoor spaces, where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. We have not seen any evidence of a decline in positive cases; cases in Bedford as a whole remain incredibly high, and in particular cases in primary schools are at an all time high. COVID has absolutely not gone away!

Given the relatively high numbers of positive cases within our school family affecting both children and staff, we will continue to operate with the measures we have in place, which includes the requirement for all visitors to school, including parents, to wear a face covering when on the school site. Please continue to act with caution and consideration to all those with whom you come into contact at school.

To support the local Public Health team in ensuring that national Government is fully aware of the very high case numbers in Bedford, we have been asked by PH to ask you to please report all positive LFD test results directly to [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). Many thanks.

It's been a challenging week with very high rates of staff absence, for all sorts of reasons. However, I am so grateful to all the staff who have stepped up this week to cover absent colleagues in order to make sure school continues to run as smoothly as possible for the children—you really do have a great team here who are so dedicated to your children!

In amongst all the challenges, you will know that your children continue to enjoy lots of different learning activities across the school. Canaries enjoyed a special art workshop with Susan this week, who has helped them develop a variety of skills using marker pens and acrylic paint to develop pieces of art work to enter into The Harpur Trust art competition. Some wonderful work has been created! They've also been writing instructions for and then following these to make cucumber sandwiches. Whinchats and Sabrewings have enjoyed the start of their gymnastics programme, led by a specialist coach.

We will all enjoy the chance to rest this weekend—take good care and stay well!

Maria & all the team at St James'



## Term Dates

14th-18th February Half Term

Monday, 28th February Height & weight screening for YR—letters and information to follow

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

## 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.



### **Pupil Governors Vision Statement**

The Pupil Governors want to encourage all children to have the opportunity to share their ideas and have a voice. We aim to create a diverse and equal school with opportunities for all children to join in.

We want to make links to our community and the wider world, by supporting our chosen charities.

Our aim is to make St James a better place; it is welcoming and a place where everyone can get along.

We want our school to feel like home.

## Our wonderful children—congratulations!



R has been chosen as student of the year out of 1050 students at his taekwondo club—this is a wonderful achievement and we are all incredibly proud of him—well done!

MATHLETICS HALL OF FAME				
World Top 100 students				
Time remaining 22:34:28				
Previous Current				
CLASSES	STUDENTS	WORLD	COUNTRY	
				Brinsford Community Primary School, Brinsford, United Kingdom
				Colstock K 3988
				St Jude's CE Junior School, Egham, United Kingdom
				Team AUS, WA, Australia
				Team I 3800
				Team AUS, WA, Australia
				St James' C of E VA Primary School, BEDFORD, United Kingdom
				Team AUS, WA, Australia

Chloe and Ella have also achieved great things in Mathletics—Ella was placed as the 55th top mathematician in the WORLD, and 36th in the UK. Chloe was 96th in the whole of the UK. BRILLIANT maths work, girls!

MATHLETICS HALL OF FAME				
UK's Top 100 Students				
Time remaining 23:52:38				
Previous Current				
CLASSES	STUDENTS	WORLD	COUNTRY	
Position	Country	Name	School	Points
55	UK	Farhaan G	Thorpe Hall Primary School, London, United Kingdom	2730
56	UK	Schuyler C	St Michael and St Martin, United Kingdom	2720
57	UK	Zareef H	Stonville Primary School, Birmingham, United Kingdom	2709
58	UK	Chloe R	St James' C of E VA Primary School, BEDFORD, United Kingdom	2680
59	UK	J W	Bowlee Park Community Primary School, United Kingdom	2680
60	UK	Brooke M	Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School, United Kingdom	2670

## COVID

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 if your child tests positive for COVID
- 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
- 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)

Please ensure that you have your child's log in details for Teams—teachers have resent these home this term but we are still getting lots of phone calls from parents who do not have these. If you are unsure, please contact your child's class teacher and they can resend them.

In association with Bedford Quakers & Malawi Orphan Fund

## "Unlock Uni"

Alex Mnataganian & friends present  
A concert in aid of disadvantaged  
young people in Malawi



3 - 4.30pm, Sunday 27th Feb 2022

Christ Church, 140 Dudley St  
Bedford MK40 3SX  
Donations welcome



Imagine this...

You've got the grades, you've got the tuition loan,  
but you don't have a family.  
You can't afford a laptop, books, food.  
So, no uni for you?

Learn more and donate at [unlockuni.org](https://unlockuni.org)



Each month Bedford Quakers  
support a chosen charity.

For February 2022 we are helping students of  
Mchinji Children's Home, also known as  
"Home of Hope" - a large residential school, home  
to over 600 of Malawi's most vulnerable children  
and young people.

By contributing financially, we will help  
"unlock university" for students who have the  
grades but not the means to attend.



All proceeds will be presented to  
and administered by Bedford-  
based charity Malawi Orphan Fund.

Registered UK Charity 1110640.

[lquakers.org.uk/bedford](https://lquakers.org.uk/bedford)  
[malawiorphanfund.uk](https://malawiorphanfund.uk)  
[ccbedford.org](https://ccbedford.org)