



# Newsletter 20th May, 2022

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This week has seen our Y6 children go off on their residential trip—they've been having a great time sailing, climbing, paddle boarding, raft making and not sleeping! They return later today, no doubt full of stories of the memories made. I am grateful for all the staff who have worked so hard to make this happen—Mr Leach, Mrs Sims and Miss Bamber—and for giving up their own personal time to ensure that the children have a wonderful, and safe, time during their time away from home.

Elsewhere, children in Robins have been watching their caterpillars very carefully this week and have seen the chrysalises start to develop. Our Year 5 children really enjoyed another sporting event at Biddenham School. Robins and Whinchats enjoyed some special tennis sessions this morning, GreenJays have used block printing techniques to create their own flags and of course our Year 2 children have completed their SATs tests this week. We've also been informed that one of our children has won a prize in the Harpur Trust competition, with others being commended for their entries and having their art work displayed at the Higgins museum—we will formally announce this when the certificates arrive in school, so watch this space!

Next week is the last week of Term 5, and ends with a special celebration ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The children will spend Friday learning all about the Queen and her family, and in the afternoon we will enjoy a picnic together as a school family, along with the Pupil Governors' Summer Fair. It should be a lovely way to end what has been a long and at times tricky term!

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



















#### Welcoming Ukrainians to our neighbourhood

An organisation and fund to support Ukrainian refugees settling locally has been set up through St James' Church, Biddenham and Great Denham. The plan is to urgently build an initial emergency fund, to enable a quick response to assist the Ukrainians who are arriving here.

We will be seeing Ukrainian children in our schools, local clubs and neighbourhoods and this will be an opportunity for you to make them feel welcome and to offer equipment, clothes or toys in good condition. The journeys through Ukraine to reach here are terrifying with the risk of violent assault and murder. The loss of their homes and jobs and potentially their fathers and husbands is traumatising. Ukrainians settling here are starting life with virtually nothing, so any financial donations are also greatly appreciated.

Funds raised will be held in a restricted account and will be used only to help meet the many needs of those refugees arriving in Biddenham, Great Denham, St Mary's and wider Bedford for however long our support is required.

Please consider giving to this fund. There are a number of ways you can make a donation:

1. By bank transfer – sending your donation to the following account:

Name: Biddenham PCC

Sort Code: 60-02-13 (NatWest Bank)

Account No: 5131 7710

In the reference field please enter "Ukraine" followed by your postcode and house number. Gift Aid will be claimed where possible – adding 25% to the value of your donation.

2. By cheque - payable to "Biddenham PCC".

Please include a note of your name and address so as to allow Gift Aid to be claimed and add "for Ukraine".

3. Place your donation in a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available in St James' church). Please mark the envelope "Ukraine". Donations can be sent to the St James' Church PCC treasurer at 32a Church End, Biddenham, MK40 4AR. Alternatively, donations can be handed to a churchwarden or simply placed in the weekly collection in St James' church. Also you can call 01234 353662 or 07973 264647.

Thank you for your invaluable support in welcoming refugee Ukrainians to our neighbourhood.

We're looking for any donations of good quality, nearly new toys (especially for teenagers), smartphones which older children can use to stay in contact with friends and families in other places, or good quality bikes for children of all ages, especially teenagers. Please contact if you can help.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# **YOUTUBE KIDS**

SETTING

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

Input your child's name, age and birth month.

HELP OSCAR

Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!











#### REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

# RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction – which can potentially lead to children staying up too lette, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

# BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

#### MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the "Recommended" icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

#### DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are

#### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may requir spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

















# YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People

Whether you work at a youth club, coach a sports team, or run extra-curricular activities outside of school, we know the positive and crucial role you play in the lives of young people but understand you may often feel under-equipped to support



### 1 week to go, until our Pupil Governor Summer Fair!

We are very busy finalising the plans for our Summer Fair, being held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Your child will need spending money for the Fair, NO MORE THAN £2 PLEASE (in loose change if possible!) The aim of our Fair is to raise money for our chosen charity; Young Minds, which is a charity that supports young people's mental health. See the website for more information: <a href="www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a>

We are also asking for donations of soft toys for Robins stall; please send these in from Monday  $23^{rd}$  May.

Thank you for your support,

The Pupil Governors and Mrs De Luca

# Explore the gardens of Church End Biddenham



### Sunday 26th June 2022, 2pm-5pm

Come and explore the variety of gardens along Church End, The Old Barns and Manor Road, Biddenham - whether pristine, everyday, interesting or just "work in progress".

**Afternoon tea** with home-made cakes for sale in the Church Barn. **Plants** for sale.

**Tickets £5 per person** for all gardens, available on the day from the Church Barn (next to St James's Church at MK40 4AS), or by the postbox, The Old Barns. Accompanied children under 12 free.

Parking along Main Road. Well controlled dogs on leads, children and buggies all welcome. **Note:** There are ponds, steps and other hazards in some gardens and wheelchair access may be limited in some areas.

For more information, email <a href="mailto:churchendgardens@gmail.com">churchendgardens@gmail.com</a>

In aid of The Friends of St James, Biddenham
- the charity which preserves and enhances the historic church buildings for future generations