



## Newsletter

### 27th May, 2022

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We end Term 5 in full celebratory mood ready for the Platinum Jubilee next week—this morning Graham Bates came to speak to the school to share his memories of the Coronation and post-war life; he also generously shared his OBE medal, which the children declared as being 'cool'. As I write, the Pupil Governors have opened their stalls and children are making their way around these, and our staff team have been preparing the sandwiches ready for our Jubilee picnic this afternoon. Our thanks go to Mrs Rai, Ms Dimmock, Mrs De Luca and Mrs Morton who have co-ordinated all these activities, with very special thanks to Mrs Wilding and her mum who have been busy baking delicious cupcakes for us all! In these very difficult and challenging times, it is lovely to have something to celebrate.

Throughout the week, children have been learning about the Queen, and in Robins they have even been able to role play tea with her. In Kingfishers, children have finished their RE topic about Pentecost by creating art work which reflects the most important parts of this holy event. Some of our Green Jays took part in an athletics event on Wednesday, and again, represented our school with pride. On Wednesday, children enjoyed a special Gigs for Kids concert, where a duet of musicians performed some familiar pieces of music on the trumpet and trombone. It's been a busy week!

Throughout the term, I continue to be impressed with the way in which children stay committed to their learning. They are focused and keen to achieve their very best in all they do, which is always wonderful to see. This year has seen the return of all statutory assessments following the pandemic—our Canaries and Sabrewings have coped brilliantly with their SATs tests. At the end of a busy term, everyone deserves their break next week.

When we return after the break, we believe we will be members of the Diocesan of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust. We were advised earlier this week that, following the Governors' decision, the Secretary of State for Education has signed off on all the relevant paperwork. You and your children should not notice any immediate changes, but we expect that in the coming years, joining the Trust will enable our school to grow and develop in many positive ways.

However you spend your half term break, we all wish you every happiness,

With love,

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".

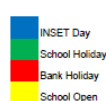
3. Place your donation in a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available in St James' church). Please mark the envelope "Ukraine".

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.

St James' CEVA Primary School Term Dates 2022-2023



September 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

October 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

November 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

December 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

January 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

February 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

March 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

April 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

May 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

June 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

July 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Dear Parent and Carers

As I write this, I fully anticipate that the Secretary of State will give approval for St James' Primary School to join the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. It is governors' understanding that all the necessary legal processes have been completed to make this happen. There is no major announcement to accompany this event and staff, children and parents/carers will see very little physical change at all. I am aware that the school sign has already been changed but I believe this was based on the assumption that the transfer would happen on 1<sup>st</sup> April. At a recent meeting of the governing body and having considered the outcome of the informal consultation process, governors voted unanimously to progress with the conversion, believing it to be in the best interests of all stakeholders, and especially since the recent government White Paper highlights the expectation that all schools will join strong MATs by 2030 at the latest. By choosing to take this move now, we believe it puts the school in a far stronger position than if we were to wait.

You can find a copy of the consultation report on the school's website: <https://stjamescofeva.sites.schooljotter2.com/downloadfile/18445442> Can I take this opportunity to thank those of you who made a contribution to the consultation process and to thank everyone for their continuing support as we return to normality after the turbulence of the past two years. The education and well-being of the children in our care remain the absolute focus of everyone connected with St James' and we look forward to exciting times ahead as we join a family of like-minded schools that share the same vision and ethos.

I hope you have an enjoyable week ahead, especially as we mark such a significant event in the nation's history.

Best wishes

David Fraser  
Chair of Governors



Carers in Bedfordshire welcomes you to join us for a family fun-day in Queens Park. Find out and ask questions about how our service can help families with additional caring responsibilities.

کھوارس ہن بڈفورڈشائر کے کونسل پارکے ایکٹ پاریمباریک مزار دینے پراگرام جنہ آپناکے سہاوت جانایم۔ آپناکے اسی اسیٹ پریمبار یا آکھارے دیکھنا سہاوت کرے، آمنا کیکہ آپناکے سہاوت کرے پاریمبار یا آپناکے جانے کرے۔ ہاں آکھارے تھ جانے کرے، مہارہ یا فاکتہما نھرے یوگا یوگا کرے۔

کنررز ان بڈفورڈشائر آپ کو اپنے فیملی فن ڈے پر خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں۔ اگر آپ اپنے کسی رشتے داری دوست یا ہمسائے کی دیکھ بھال کرتے ہیں اور جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ ان کے لیے کیا مدد موجود ہے تو اس فیملی فن ڈے پر آپ ہم سے اس بارے میں بات کر سکتے ہیں۔ مہربانی کر کے ہمیں اس نمبر پر رابطہ کریں

For more information please contact:

Misbah - 07824 046590//Misbah.Mehmoodcarersinbeds.org.uk  
Fatima - 07436 140813//Fatima.Saadiacarersinbeds.org.uk



## Children's Community Health HUB

Your one stop contact point

**0300 555 0606**  
[ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net)

Open 9am-5pm every weekday (excluding BH)

New contact number and email address for the Beds and Luton 0-19 services, including:

- Health Visiting
- School Nursing

New contact number for:

- Luton Community Paediatric services (Edwin Lobo Centre)
- Beds and Luton Looked after Children's services

**Health HUB - a single contact point, making it easier for you to get in touch with us.**





### Parking Outside School—Is this your car?

Despite regular reminders and the recent use of our 'Parking Buddies', we continue to notice selfish and dangerous parking outside the school, which includes people parking on the grass verges and on our neighbour's drives. We have regularly asked you not to do this.

This week, we received the following email from one of our neighbours, who is clearly appalled by the actions of a few. Your actions reflect on our school, and once again you are asked to park safely and considerately, even if this means you have to park away from the school gates and walk the short distance to school.

*I have just made the mistake of walking past your school at 15.30 and have been horrified by the indiscriminate parking on the village green and blocking a drive. Please see attached photos. I see you have a few new signs advertising that the school is a 'walking' school. May I suggest that you advise all parents to park considerately and in fact ensure a member of staff is outside observing and taking appropriate steps.*

Thank you



Dear Parent/Carer

#### **COVID Vaccination of 5 to 11 year olds – Update**

National experts have advised that parents of children aged 5 to 11 years should be offered the chance to have their child vaccinated. Vaccination is particularly important for children who have health conditions that put them at higher risk from COVID-19.

For most children COVID-19 is a mild illness that lasts a few days, but for a very small number symptoms may be more serious or last longer. Vaccination will reduce the chance of your child suffering from COVID-19, and two doses should give long lasting protection against serious complications of infection – including any future waves due to new variants.

If you wish to bring your 5 to 11 year old child for their COVID-19 vaccination, you can either book on-line through the national booking system: [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by calling 119 between 8.00am and 8.00pm every day. Availability is updated frequently so please check this regularly.

The majority of COVID-19 vaccinations for 5 to 11 year olds are being offered from the large vaccination centres across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Alternatively, you are welcome to walk-in to any of the centres listed on this page on the BLMK website: [www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/parentguide/](https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/parentguide/).

The following [guidance](#) will help you prepare your child for a vaccination. We know that some young children are anxious about needles and we do hope this will help them.

#### **Assistance with transport**

The free Vaxi Cabs service is available for families who may find it difficult to travel to our vaccination centres. Each local authority has full details on their website:

[Bedford Borough](#)

We hope this information helps you to access COVID-19 vaccination for your child. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccination programme please check [www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/parentguide/](https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/parentguide/) or you can contact the Clinical Commissioning Group at: [blmkccg.covid.vaccinationsspoc@nhs.net](mailto:blmkccg.covid.vaccinationsspoc@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely

**5 to 11yrs COVID Vaccination Team (Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes)**

## Raincoats

Please remember to send your child into school with a showerproof coat, just in case!



THE QUEEN'S  
PLATINUM JUBILEE

### Theme Day Menu

TUESDAY 7TH JUNE

Coronation Chicken #TD58  
Or  
Queen's Coronation Quorn #TD60  
with

Crown Jewelled Celebration Rice #TD59  
Broccoli #SD20  
Carrots #SD28

Apple Pie with Cream #D97 #D39



caterlink



Kids shine brighter with

# SQUASH STARS!

Watch your kids laugh and light up with confidence all while learning the great game of squash.

6 SESSIONS  
£42  
INCLUDES A SQUASH RACKET  
FIT WITH EVERYTHING  
YOU NEED TO PLAY!

Squash Stars is a professionally run programme designed for kids aged 5-11 to keep active, make some new friends and above all have fun.  
Sign up today at [squashstars.co.uk](http://squashstars.co.uk)

## SQUASH STARS!

At the John Bunyan Centre

### Course Details

Squash Stars will run at the John Bunyan Sports and Fitness Centre, Mile Road, MK42 9TS on Friday afternoons.

Dates: 6 week course starting Friday 10th June.

Time: 5.30 - 6.30pm

### To Sign Up

1. Visit [www.squashstars.co.uk](http://www.squashstars.co.uk)
2. Enter your details (parent details) to register and set up a password.
3. Type your post code into the "Search Box"
4. This should show the Bunyan Centre sessions at the top, with the title: "Towers Health & Racquets Club, John Bunyan Sports & Fitness"
5. Complete the sign up process & pay the session fee
6. You will receive your equipment pack directly from Squash Stars (England Squash).
7. Our qualified squash coaches look forward to seeing you on Friday 10th June!

The course (coaching staff & court hire) is sponsored by

**Towers**  
HEALTH & RACQUETS CLUB

Free



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Learn to Ride Lose the Stabilisers

Get kids riding in a safe, off-road environment, supported by the Bedford Borough Council Sustainable Transport team.

Choose the one-hour time slot that suits you. Scan the QR or follow the [link](#) to book via Eventbrite. Contact [sustainable.transport@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.transport@bedford.gov.uk) for further details.

**Wednesday 1st June Allen Park MUGA**

Allen Park, Old Ford End Road, Queen's Park, Bedford MK40 4LY

[///weedy.forms.hog](http://weedy.forms.hog)

10-11am 11am-12pm



[learntoride010622.eventbrite.co.uk](https://learntoride010622.eventbrite.co.uk)

I've also been made aware of and asked to share details of the new Solar Together scheme. While not active travel related, it seems like a great environmental initiative for anyone considering photovoltaic panels the website is <https://solartogether.co.uk/bedford/>

Remember:

Monday 6th June is an INSET Day, so children return to school on

**Tuesday, 7th June**

Upcoming Dates:

Tues 7th June	New Reception Parents Meeting 5.00pm
Thurs 9th June	Whinchats (Y1) Multi-sports event
	New reception Story Session 3.00pm
Fri 10th June	Y5/6 Cricket event
Mon 11th June	Y5/6 Athletics event
Thurs 16th June	Y6 Athletics Festival





## Sunflower Diaries competition for Biddenham Village Show (at St James VA School on Sunday 11th September 2022)

After two years of covid restrictions Biddenham Village Show is back for **September 11th 2022!** This is a village show that has been running since around 1865, so there is a lot of history, and it needs everyone's support to keep it going!

There will be a series of competitions posted throughout the next half term for all age groups of children to enter. The first competition is for everyone!

### SUNFLOWER COMPETITION!

#### Competition rules;

1. Plant your sunflower seed (ideally now!)
2. Photograph the milestones of your sunflower growing
3. Add a few words to your photographs to explain what is happening, where it is growing (your house, grandparents' house, school etc...) and how high it is reaching.
4. Height measurement is from the base of the stem at soil level to the top of the stem (where the stem meets the flower). The stem can be extended to measure the full height of the plant.

Width measurement is the diameter of the seed head over the top of the flower (excluding the petals).

If you would like to email your progress, please ask your parent/carer to email the address below and we will post your updates on the Biddenham show website <http://www.biddenhamshow.org/>.

**By 1st September**, measure your sunflower **height and seed head width** by taking a photo with a **tape measure by the side** (a person may be in the photo holding the measure).

(photographs will appear on the website and at the Show, so by emailing you are giving us permission to use your photograph)

*Please don't forget to include your school year (or state over 19 if an adult), your name and address in your entry.*

Post your diary (if you kept one) and final photographs to [biddenhamsunflowers@gmail.com](mailto:biddenhamsunflowers@gmail.com) by 1st September.



## Walk & Talk with Mel

During Summer Holidays for anyone aged **7-13 years old**.

**50min walk** around Priory Marina Bedford, one to one or small groups max of 4.

Focusing on **building confidence and resilience** in preparation for returning to education in September or starting university.

The walk will consist of, **Listening, talking, mindful practices and coping strategies for anxiety.** \*

- **Thursday Mornings**
- **28th July**
- **4th August**
- **11th August**
- **18th August**
- **25th August**

Book on one or all five, £45 per session.

Email me [mpositivetherapy@gmail.com](mailto:mpositivetherapy@gmail.com)

I am a school counsellor and private counsellor, fully DBS checked and member of BACP and insured for walk and talk through Holistic Insurance.

