



Newsletter

5th July, 2019

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

This Week at St James'...

This week seems to have flown by with so much going on! Robins enjoyed their Forest School trip on Tuesday—it was a long and tiring day but I know they enjoyed their time outdoors very much. Sabrewings have begun their transition to secondary school, with many children out this week on their visit days; there are more next week for Lincroft. It's lovely seeing them come back to school so positive and excited for their moves, and that they're already making new friends. Green Jays are enjoying a two day maths & rugby project, Try Rugby, led by Bedford Blues and the University of Bedfordshire; this is a really clever project linking shape, space, angles, ration and measurement with the skills of rugby. Kingfishers enjoyed their Sing On concert yesterday, after weeks of getting ready; as always their behaviour, attitude and performance were excellent! Peacocks took part in Biddenham School's STEM Fair (linking science, technology and maths) and again enjoyed a very productive and interesting morning; today, they are enjoying an Ancient Greek day to finish off their topic for the term. Today, we welcome three of our governors to visit the school to have a look at everything we get up to here; I'm certain they will be impressed by the behaviour and attitudes of all your children. In between all this, the whole school is preparing for our Proms in the Playground summer show, which should be a really lovely performance to finish off the year.

We are also sending home the end of year reports today; do make sure your child hands theirs over to you, and do take the time to read through these, there are some really lovely things to be said about your children and you all have many reasons to be incredibly proud of them!

Next week looks exciting as well: Kingfishers class trip, moving up morning, Peacocks visit to Biddenham and our music concert on Friday.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful weekend—don't forget the PSA Summer Fair on Sunday!

Maria & all the team at St James'



With the sun shining, please remember to send your child to school with a sunhat—the sunshine is quite strong at lunchtimes!

Date & Time	Event	Classes Involved	Staff Lead	Special Notes
Mon 8th July	Kingfishers Class Trip to Big Rock	Year 4	LR	See separate letter
Tues 9th July 9.30	Stay & Play session for new YR		CD	
Tues 9th, Weds 10th July	Lincroft Transition days	Year 6	IL	
Weds 10th July	Moving Up morning	All classes	MS	
Weds 10th July	Parents Evening 4.00-6.00	Whole school		Drop-in, doors will close 5.50pm
Thurs 11th July	Biddenham Transition Day	Year 5	TKL	See separate letter
Fri 12th July 2.00	Music Concert	All children who have received instrument lessons this year	MS	Guitars, drums, recorders, piano—parents invited
Mon 15th July 5.00	Summer Show	Whole School	GH	'Proms in the Playground'
Tues 16th July	Music Play Day	Year 3	GH	See separate letter
Tues 16th July 2.00	Family picnic for new YR starters		CD	
Weds 17th July 2.00	Leaver's Service	Whole School	IL	

Staffing Update

There are changes afoot as we look forward to September. Miss Bailey, Miss Bingham-Green and Mrs Singh are all leaving St James' at the end of this term.

Miss Bailey is relocating to Dundee over the summer with her partner, and the commute may be just a little on the difficult side! Natasha has been at St James' since qualifying as a teacher and has contributed a great deal to the life of our school over the past 5 years, including taking on the role of SENDCo for us.

Miss Bingham-Green is leaving in order to go travelling the world with her partner. At this stage, she's not quite sure where but it will be somewhere on the other side of the world, an even more challenging commute! Suzie has been with us for just two years, but has made a huge difference to the life of our school.

Mrs Singh is returning to her previous career in medicine and leaves us after a number of years linked with St James' both as a parent and a member of staff. She's been a stalwart of the PSA as well as a wonderful colleague with whom to work.

All of us will miss our colleagues greatly, and they leave with our gratitude and best wishes with their exciting new features.

Recruitment in schools remains a big challenge but we are very fortunate in that we have been able to fill all our vacancies with exceptional people who will strengthen the great team we have here. Mrs Felicity Lawless and Ms Shiromi Pillai join us as teachers, and Mrs Pickering joins us as a Learning Support Assistant. We have also appointed Ms Jade Robson, who will be providing cover for teachers when they are out of the classroom. All our new appointments are experienced and skilled practitioners, and will be visiting school in the next couple of weeks to meet everyone. Miss Kassim-Lowe is reducing her working week a little, so Miss Laura Williams will be with us for a day a week to work alongside her. I am thrilled that, in these challenging times, we are fully staffed with some really great people.

Classes next year are arranged as follows:

Reception	Robins	Mrs Doughty	Mrs Warren, Mrs Reilly
Year 1	Whinchats	Mrs Lawless	Mrs Botrugno
Year 2	Canaries	Ms Pillai	Mrs Wilding
Year 3	Green Jays	Mrs Hawkins	Mrs Sims
Year 4	Kingfishers	Mr Renzi	Mr Tapley
Year 5	Peacocks	Miss Kassim Lowe, Miss Williams	Mrs Owens
Year 6	Sabrewings	Mr Leach	Mrs Pickering

This information has been shared with the children today, and they will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers next Wednesday morning.

Travelling to and from school

Unfortunately, I have had two neighbours contact the school this week regarding the way in which children are travelling to and from school. Our first neighbour had a collision with a child on a bike (not the driver's fault). Fortunately the child was unhurt, but was riding a bike which was too big for him, and was not wearing a helmet. All parents are reminded that helmets **MUST** be worn by cyclists.

Our second neighbour was really quite cross about the way in which parents are parking and driving down Main Road, having experienced two near misses with parents pulling out in front of her without indicating or exercising due care and attention. I am so embarrassed by this as I can not count the number of times I have had to write messages about safety or speak to individual parents. This week, I have also witnessed parents stopping on the yellow zig zag lines in front of school.

You all have a duty and responsibility to act safely around the school, its children, other pedestrians and motorists. You also have a duty to set a positive example to your children, which some of you simply are not doing. You are also bringing our school into disrepute—we have a good reputation but this is being damaged by your actions. One of these days, someone is going to get hurt, and I hope to God it isn't one of our children. Please use your common sense. Or even better, with this great weather, use your feet and walk part or all of your journey to school.

It seems that part of the problem is that you are now parking on both sides of the road, which creates blockages and bottle necks. Please could we all use some common sense and only park on one side of the road, (school side) so that traffic can still move fairly freely down Main Road.

I have and will continue to advise any of our neighbours who are inconvenienced by the very small number of inconsiderate parents to report incidences to the police.

I know most of you drive safely, carefully and considerately—**thank you for this, it is greatly appreciated.**

Phoning the School



We've had a number of parents who have commented that they have been trying to phone the school but can't get through. There is only one Dawn and she is wonderful, but she can not be in the office all the time to pick up the phone. She has a multitude of other jobs which take her in and out of the office throughout the day.

There is an option for you to leave a message when you call. Please use this facility. Dawn will pick up your message and take appropriate action, including calling you back if necessary or passing on your message to other staff. Thank you.

Music Concert—Friday 12th July 2.00



Children who have been learning an instrument this year will have an opportunity to perform to the whole school at next week's music concert. Our music teachers will have had conversations with children about what they need to do. This is an informal way for children to showcase their musical skills to a wider audience, and is not a 'polished' performance. Parents, however, are more than welcome to come along, if they wish. If you are unsure whether your child is involved, please do check with them or their class teacher. Please note that choir will not be involved in this concert, as they will be performing at Proms in the Playground on Monday, 15th July instead.

For a sneak preview of what to expect, have a look at Ms Soulsby's Twitter Feed, there's a short video of Year 6 guitar heroes!



This week, beyond the classroom....Y6 'rockers' preparing for next week's music concert, Y4 at their Sing On performance, and Y3 taking part in Try Rugby pilot. Great to see so many things going on around and beyond school.

French Club—Years 1 to 3



Petite Etoile French Club will be back in September 2019!
New timetable: Wednesday's after school 3.30pm – 4.30pm
£4.75 per session

I am delighted to confirm that Petite Etoile French Club will be returning to St James' Primary School in September 2019. Please note that there will be a new timetable: from September 2019 the French club will be on a Wednesday after school, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Please note that I will also be increasing the cost of the after-school club by £0.25, so each session will now be £4.75. Payment must be made prior to the sessions starting, either on a half termly or termly basis.

If you would like your child to continue learning French with Petite Etoile French School, please fill in the form overleaf and return to your school office by Thursday 11th July.

Supporting your child in their learning of French: Login to www.petite-etoile.co.uk and click on the link for support videos. Here you will find short support videos of the language covered in our sessions, plus lists of vocabulary. Your child can show you what they have learnt and you can practise together. Any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email: liskaler@petite-etoile.co.uk or phone: 07806 768604 and I will be happy to discuss any aspect with you in more detail.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and hope to see many of you again in September.

Warm wishes,

Lisa Kaler
Director, Petite Etoile Ltd.

Petite Etoile Ltd.

Company No: 11070465

Petite Etoile French Club Autumn Term 2019

1) I would like my child to attend French Club in September

Child's name:

Child's current class:

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Parent's preferred means of contact (please provide either a telephone number or email):

.....

Date:

Petite Etoile Ltd.

Company No: 11070465