



Newsletter

19th July, 2019

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This Year at St James' ...

The end of another wonderful year at St James' has finally come, it always seems to come along far too quickly. It's been a wonderful year; we have watched your children blossom as they have grown and we are so very proud of them all and all their achievements—they really are quite remarkable people, and as their parents, you should feel rightly proud of them.

The end of the year gives us all some space and time to rest, reflect and re-charge for the coming year. We're all excited for the fun we will have in the summer break, but also sad to be saying so many goodbyes: we say goodbye to our first Year 6 cohort. What a wonderful group they are and we have loved working with them; I know that they will go into their secondary schools and shine brightly, and I'm very proud to have had the privilege of knowing them and playing a part in their lives so far. We also say goodbye to Muhammad, Abdul, Shaleen, Luke, Mary, Digby, Rowan, Evie, Henry and Jessica, and we wish them every success in their new schools. Miss Bailey, Miss Bingham-Green, Mrs Singh and Mrs Martin also leave us today—4 wonderful ladies who have served our family so well during their time here; I know many exciting things await them and hope they carry the St James' magic with them on their travels both near and far.

We are always grateful for the support and friendship you provide for us all in our work. Your gifts, cards, letters and emails over the past week are truly appreciated—thank you for your generosity and kindness. There have been a few words shared which have made us cry a little because they are just so lovely, and I just want to highlight one comment I received this morning from a parent. She wrote many lovely things, but this sentence struck me the most: **'You are not just teachers, you speak life into the future generation.'** This is the great joy and privilege of working with primary school aged children, the opportunity to work alongside amazing people, influence their lives and send out into the world exciting, enthusiastic, passionate, funny, kind and compassionate young people.

Enjoy your children this summer! We all look forward to seeing everyone in September.

With all good wishes,

Maria & the team at St James'

Children return to school on Wednesday, 4th September (Years 1-6)

Change to INSET Days in 2020

Please note that we have altered our calendar slightly next year.

INSET Day on 6th Jan 2020 has now been moved to June 19th 2020. This is to allow staff to attend the Education Festival in Crowthorne, which provides excellent Professional Development for us all.

Children will return to school after Christmas on Monday, 6th January.

Apologies for any inconvenience. Any parents who have already booked holidays to include 6th Jan will have this absence authorised, if they can provide evidence that the booking was made before today's date.

Mrs Lawless & Year 1 are looking for donations of the following:

Offcuts of timber (non-treated) for woodwork
Recyclables- cereal boxes, kitchen rolls, egg boxes, yogurt pots.
Pots and pans, kitchen utensils.
Bucket, spades, dress up clothes/ role play items.
Stopwatches, walkie-talkies, wall map, globe
Any donations gratefully received. Thank you.



Having a summer clearout?

Please consider saving and donate any outgrown uniform in September. We have had a few donations this year but are hoping to collect enough to hold a pre-loved uniform sale in the Autumn term.



LunchBox@FACES returns this summer holiday. Free school meals are a lifeline for many families but when term ends and the summer holidays begin, up to three million children in Britain face weeks of going hungry.

It is our aim to ensure that no child in Bedford Borough goes hungry this summer. We will be offering support for families and their children by providing meals during the school summer holidays.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Amy on 01234 270601

www.facesbedford.org

A MASSIVE thank you to our amazing PSA for all their support this year—we couldn't do what we do without you!

Term Dates 2019-2020

Term 1

Monday, 2nd September – Friday, 18th October

INSET

Monday, 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 21st – FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

Term 2

Monday, 28th October – Friday, 20th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 23rd DECEMBER – FRIDAY, 3rd JANUARY

Term 3

Monday, 6th January – Friday, 14th February

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 17TH – 21st FEBRUARY, 2019

Term 4

Monday, 24th February – Friday, 3rd April

EASTER HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 6TH – FRIDAY, 17th APRIL

Term 5

Monday, 20th April – Friday, 22nd May

INSET

Monday, 20th April

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 25th – 29th MAY

Term 6

Monday, 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET

Friday, 19th June

****NOTE DATE CHANGE****

Reception:

Home Visits: 4th, 5th, 6th September

Mornings only: 9th, 10th September

Mornings plus lunch 11th, 12th, 13th September

Full time from 16th September

We have received an anonymous donation of a substantial amount of money from one of our families. This is truly jaw dropping, and we are all blown away by your generosity and kindness. Thank you. We will be using this money to add more resources to our Robins classroom, and also to buy new, quality literature to support our English curriculum across the school.

The Staff are also very grateful to the Fox's for their donation to the staffroom—thank you so much for your kindness. We shall think of you every time we have a 'posh' cuppa :-)



Pupil Governor News

Over the Spring and Summer terms our Pupil Governors have worked hard to raise money to buy resources for each class or the playground. They have raised a brilliant, grand total of **£371** through their various sales.

At the beginning of this project, they went and asked the views of their peers to get an idea of which resources they should eventually buy. Last week, they were busy ordering resources for both Robins and the KS1/KS2 playgrounds. Whilst choosing the resources they were very conscious about the environment so made sure as many of the resources as possible were not made from plastic. Amongst others, a Giant wooden Jenga and a Limbo game were ordered! They are now looking forward to the resources being delivered and everyone enjoying using them at break and lunch times in September.

At our last meeting on Tuesday I asked the Pupil Governors what their highlights of the year have been.

Thomas - I've liked helping the school get better.

Isla P – I think being a Pupil Governor is a good responsibility and you get to do fun things. I definitely want to try to be a Pupil Governor again next year.

Lily – I have enjoyed being a Pupil Governor and helping the rest of the school.

Chloe – I have enjoyed being a Pupil Governor as I have been able to contribute my own ideas to help grow the school. Fundraising for charity was very fun and it is good to help others.

Aqualina – I am happy being a Pupil Governor this year and we have been able to hold lots of stalls to raise money for charity and the school, making it better.

Oliver L – I like being a Pupil Governor as we get to talk to the other children and find out their wishes. I really enjoyed running our cake stall.

Katie – I've enjoyed being a Pupil Governor as we always get to help others. My favourite thing was organising the talent show in Friendship Week.

Michelle – I have been able to do things I've never done before. I liked making the bracelets for our sale.

Isla B – I like being a Pupil Governor because we get to do Friendship Week, sales and make decisions.

Lazzaro – I have liked being a Pupil Governor because I liked the bracelet sale we had to raise money for the school to improve our playground resources.

Nyasha – Being a Pupil Governor has been amazing because I like helping the school improve and become better. I like how we help not just our school but others in the world.

Oliver M – Being a Pupil Governor is good because you all get to work together and you can raise money. My favourite thing was doing the sales.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all our Pupil Governor for their great ideas and dedication over this year! Also, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported them! Have a lovely summer – best wishes,

Mrs Doughty.