



Newsletter

13th September 2019

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Our first full week at school has seen lots happening. We were very pleased to welcome all our new Robins children and their families to school on Monday—they have made a super start to their primary school careers and are settling in brilliantly.

Pupil Governors elections have been held this week, and we have a new set of children ready and willing to work together to help make our school even better. I can't wait to hear about all their plans and ideas. On Tuesday, I attended a meeting of Head Teachers introducing us to the Mental Health Champions programme, which is a pilot which will run throughout the year, run by Place2Be, which will help us develop our whole school strategy to support children and adults in understanding and looking after their mental health and well-being. Peacocks went on a local walk of Biddenham on Wednesday, as part of their topic. As always, behaviour was excellent!

Thank you to all of you who were able to come along to the Meet The Teacher sessions on Tuesday. Hopefully the information you were given has helped you prepare for the coming year—your support and encouragement will help us all deliver the very best education we can for the benefit of your children.

Next week, a few staff will be out of school on various training courses. We invest very heavily in staff professional development because we want to make sure our practice is as up to date as possible. After-school clubs will start, with rugby on Monday, and we also have an intra-school basketball competition on Friday, which should be great fun for all involved! With Y3 and Y5 instrument lessons also starting on Tuesday, next week looks to be busy and enjoyable!

With very best wishes for a peaceful and restful weekend,
Maria & all the team at St James'

From the School Office

The Office is open from 8.45 until 3.45. Please do not send urgent/same day messages via email—the office email is not monitored constantly and we do sometimes miss messages regarding last minute collection arrangements. Please telephone and leave a message if the call is not answered (telephone messages are picked up quickly throughout the day)

SCHOOL UNIFORM – MAPAC

We have been in discussion with MAPAC this week regarding postage options of school uniform. When you are ordering uniform you will now have the option to get all uniform orders delivered free of charge straight to St James'. We will accept deliveries on a weekly basis. The first delivery will be on or around the 27th September.

CATERLINK – ONLINE PAYMENTS

If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 payment for School meals will be required – please ignore this message if you have already made payments.

To clarify, meals are priced at £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week. Payment can be made to your child's online account.

Please make payments via the Caterlink Schools Meals Payment System. Every child who currently pays for a school meal have previously received a letter regarding setting up an account for your child. If you have misplaced your letter please speak to Dawn in the Office to arrange a new letter.

If you are having trouble registering, please contact Caterlink direct on 01234 360874 or email meals@wshgroup.co.uk as soon as possible.

****Caterlink provide meals on a pre-paid basis only - all meals should be paid for in advance.****

Over the coming year, staff will be working to review, refine and re-define our curriculum. Below, you will find a summary of our intentions as we complete this work. The are four drivers to the curriculum, which reflect our work with the Schools of Tomorrow programme.

Our Curriculum



Individual and Sibling Photographs - Thursday 26th September 2019

Every year, we invite a professional photographer into school to take photos of your children. We will be using a company called Tempest to take your child's photograph on Thursday 26th September 2019. We would also take a photograph of siblings within the school.

The photographs are stored on the photographer's computer system as digital images, and a paper copy is sent home to you, for the purposes of ordering. We also store digital copies on our school management system in your child's personal record. We print them only for purposes of supporting your child, for example to share medical information with staff. We do not publish these photos outside of school for any purpose, unless we have your specific approval and consent. Tempest Photography do not share the photos beyond the school.

If for any reason you would prefer the school not to take a school photograph, please either write a note and return to the school office or send an email to office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk advising of your wishes. If we do not hear from you we will assume you are happy for photographs to be taken.

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.

We are also looking for any donations of the following:

Old household electrical items, such as kettles, hairdryers, hair straighteners, lamps

Any old plastic kitchen equipment, such as plates, cups and toy food

A child's kitchen for outdoor play

Any old dolls, plastic doll's house

Storage boxes (suitable for outdoors, preferably with lids)

Any writing equipment—paper, pens, envelopes

Donations of (healthy & easy to care for) pot plants

Throws & larger pieces of fabric

Thank 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****

Quiet Garden Development Day

Saturday, 12th October

Please come along and help us develop this area, using pallets to make furniture & planters

Some more ideas of what we're hoping to achieve....



Birthdays

This is a gentle reminder that due to the amount of children in the school and various allergies and dietary requirements we are unable to hand out sweets or cakes on behalf of the children. Instead, children are able to wear their own clothes to celebrate their birthday. If your child's birthday falls in a school holiday or on a day where the children are already in mufti then you will be able to choose another day to come dressed in their birthday clothes.

Some parents still want to share cakes and sweets; this is something we don't encourage because of the risks involved, but if you wanted to do this with your child outside of the school gates, the school will not prevent this from happening. It is your responsibility to gain consent from parents, and ensure you are aware of allergies and dietary requirements (please note that the school will not provide you with this level of personal information), and that you take appropriate precautions.

Thank you for your support with this approach—we believe this allows children to enjoy their special day, whilst ensuring everyone stays safe.

St James' School App for Smartphones

If you haven't already done so, please download our school app. Via the app you can view the school calendar, newsletters and handy links.

To download the app, locate 'School Jotter' in the search bar of your app store - the app icon has a pencil logo.

Once you have downloaded the app, open School Jotter and search for the school's postcode – **MK40 4BD** or school name **St James' CE VA Primary School**.

The new school logo should appear. Select our school from the list of schools – 'St James' CE VA Primary School' will then appear every time you open the app.

Any problems, speak to Dawn in the Office for help.

Information Sheet Transfer to Secondary School 2020

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting secondary school (Year 7) in September 2020 explains how to apply for a secondary school place for a child born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

All the information you need to apply for a secondary school place is available on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/secondarytransfer. It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, School Transfer 2020, which explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions.

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer. An application form can be downloaded from our website or requested by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must apply to your home Local Authority. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 31 October 2019

Secondary School Admissions Timetable

September 2019
We will send you information on secondary school transfers through your child's current school.

September/October 2019
Schools will hold their open days / evenings. Details are overleaf.

31 October 2019
Last day for applications.

2 March 2020

If you have applied online you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied online we will post a letter to you on this day.

Schedule of Open Days/Evenings

Bedford Borough schools with a Year 7 Transfer to Secondary Intake

School Name	Date and time of Open Day/Evening
Bedford Academy	12 September 2019 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Bedford Free School	19 September 2019 5:30pm - 8:30pm 28 September 2019 10:00am - 12:00pm Also during the school day between 9:15am - 11:00am on 23, 25 & 27 September 2019
Biddenham International School & Sports College	30 September 2019 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Castle Newnham School	10 October 2019 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Daubney Academy	26 September 2019 6:00pm
Goldington Academy	26 September 2019 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Kempston Challenger Academy	18 September 2019 6:00pm
Lincroft Academy	25 September 2019 5:30pm
Mark Rutherford School	3 October 2019 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Sharnbrook Academy	26 September 2019 5:45pm - 8:30pm
St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School	1 October 2019 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Wixams Academy	17 October 2019 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Central Bedfordshire Secondary School

This information is provided for those parents / carers whose catchment area secondary school is within the Central Bedfordshire Council area. Please visit the Central Bedfordshire website, or contact the School Admissions Service, for information about open evenings for other schools in the Central Bedfordshire Council area.

School Name	Date and time of Open Evening
Sandy Secondary	26 September 2019 5:00pm

Contact Us

School Admissions Service General Enquiries - 01234 718120
Email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk

Contact details for school admission teams in neighbouring authorities

Cambridgeshire Tel: 0345 045 1370 admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Central Bedfordshire Tel: 0300 300 8037 admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Milton Keynes Tel: (01908) 253338 secondaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk	Northamptonshire Tel: 0300 126 1000 admissions@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Parent Volunteers



We are very fortunate to be so well supported by our families, and this year we're looking to further deepen our relationships with you. We know some of you would be keen to support us further by listening to children read in school. If you can spare an hour or so a week, we'd be very pleased to see you. To find out more, please come to a session with Mr Leach on **Friday 27th, September at 2.30pm**, where he will share strategies to support readers, safeguarding information, and the code of conduct for volunteers.

Please note that only parents who come along to this session will be able to volunteer in this activity—this is because we need to ensure that safeguarding information is effectively shared and understood. If there is enough demand, we can run further sessions.

TRY
tennis
FOR FREE

Biddenham Tennis Club

Sunday, 22 September 2019

www.lta.org.uk/tennisweekends



LTA NATURE VALLEY
BIG TENNIS WEEKENDS

Please email office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk if you would like to attend this session at Ursula Taylor Primary School in Clapham, by Friday, 20th September

The Friends of St James, Biddenham
presents

An evening with
Heart and Music



Musical Director: Malcolm Crane

A varied programme of music and songs, from show, film, folk and pop tunes to original compositions - plus some amusing poetry!

7:30pm, Saturday 12th October 2019

St James's Church, Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AS

Drinks and light refreshments in the interval

Entry **£10** each (members of the Friends **£8**; children under 16 free)

To reserve your places, please contact:
Diana Shooter: 01234 213305 - diana.shooter437@btinternet.com
Chris Jones: 01234 211759 - chrishj49@gmail.com

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

Parent Internet Safety Evening
Thursday 26th
September
6:30pm
UTS School Hall



We are hosting a Parent Internet Safety Evening, run by the School Liaison Officers from the Milton Keynes based 'Hazard Alley' Safety Centre. This event is to provide parents with the most up to date information and guidance to support you to keep your children safe when they are online.

It is essential that parents know how to protect their children and at the same time allow them safe access to the information available on the internet.

This evening is for adults only, if you really are unable to attend without bringing your child, they can come to our crèche where a film will be shown and they will be supervised by some staff members.

Please complete the attached form to indicate your attendance and return the form to the school office.

Thank you

IN 2020 WE WANT THE CHILDREN OF BEDFORD to EXPERIENCE LIVE MUSIC & BE INSPIRED to PLAY!

ROCK: JAZZ: 54 SCHOOLS
FUNK: 54 GIGS
CLASSICAL: ~2327~
BAROQUE: SEVEN YEAR OLDS
POP: BRASS: 30 MUSIC LESSON BURSARIES (at least!)
ORCHESTRAL: HELP US RAISE A #QUID PER KID TO DONATE VISIT SPACEHIVE/GIGS4KIDS

GIGS 4 KIDS



MUSIC FOR BEDFORD BOROUGH ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND philharmonia orchestra THE PAD PRESENTS Bedford Music Cooperative THE CULTURE CHALLENGE

Thank you for all your bottle tops—we are no longer collecting these. We are still collecting batteries and old currency. Thank you!



Pupil Governor News

Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward for the role of Pupil Governor this year. Your posters and speeches showed what mature, kind and thoughtful individuals you are – you all showed a passion to make a difference to our school and the wider community!

This year's Pupil Governors are:

Whinchats - Charlotte and Sebastian

Canaries - Rebecca P and Arthur

Green Jays - Jasmine and Elodie

Kingfishers - Rutendo and Jamie

Peacocks - Lily and D'arci

Sabrewings - Holly and Emily K

Congratulations and I look forward to working with you all! Your first Pupil Governor meeting will be Tuesday 17th September.

The National Child Measurement Programme
CALLING ALL YEAR 6 PUPILS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We want to learn more about how children in England are growing. So we need to measure the height and weight of all Reception and Year 6 children. If you're in Year 6, here's what will happen, it's very easy:

- 1 You'll take off your coat and shoes.
- 2 stand on the scales to be weighed.
- 3 Stand against the measuring stick so we can see how tall you are.
- 4 Put your coat and shoes on again and go back to your class.

Will everyone see?
Will everyone know my weight and height?
Will I need to take off any clothes?
No one will see. You will be weighed and measured one at a time, away from your class. (You can bring a friend if you like.)
No one will know your weight and height. Your weight and height details are just for our National Child Measurement Programme. We won't show anyone else – not even your friends and teachers.
You will only need to take your coat and shoes off – because they are heavy and bulky.

NURSE

Please take this home and show your parents or carers.
If you have any questions, ask your teacher, school nurse or visit www.nhs.uk/livewell/childhealth1-5

NHS

Are you or do you care for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and / or a Disability?

visit localoffer.bedford.gov.uk for the latest information on accessing services, support and activities in Bedford Borough.

LocalOffer@bedford.gov.uk [@BedfordLocalof1](https://twitter.com/BedfordLocalof1) www.facebook.com/BBLocalOffer

GET SET eat to fresh

We are collecting Aldi stickers, so please bring these into school, and ask your friends and neighbours if you can have their stickers too!



PSA Meet-up

Come along to our first committee meeting of the year to see how you can help support our school. All are very welcome, we look forward to seeing some new faces and some familiar ones!

(young siblings are welcome to join)

Thursday 26th September

Mobile classroom | 9:00 - 10:00am

Event	Date & Time	Class	Staff Lead	Notes
KS2 Intra-School Basketball competition	20.9.19	Y3-6	GH	See separate letter sent home
Bikeability	25.9.19	Y3	GH	See separate letter sent home
Individual Photos	26.9.19	All	DS	Siblings in school will also have photos taken
PSA Meeting	26.9.19 9.00am		PSA	See PSA Messages (Classlist)
Fit for Fun	26.9.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
Macmillan Coffee Morning	27.9.19		LU	
Training session for reading volunteers	27.9.19 2.30pm		IL	
Harvest Service	3.10.19 9.30am	Y5,6	IL, TKL	All families invited to attend
Y5 Higgins Museum Trip	4.10.19	Y5	TKL	
Friendship week	7th-11th October	All	CD, SM	
Autumn Book Fair	9th-16th October	All	IL	
MUFTI Beads of Courage	11.10.19	All	CD	Led by Pupil Governors
Book Blink	11.10.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Outdoor Day	12.10.19 10.00	All	MS	Please come and help us develop our outdoor environment
Celtic Harmony	18.10.19	Y3	GH	
Parents Meetings	29.10.19 4.00-8.30pm	All		
Swimming Starts	31.10.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
UK Parliament Week	4th-11th November	All	IL, CD	
Year 6 Height & Weight Screening	5.11.19	Y6	DS	See separate letter sent home
KS2 SATs—Information meeting	5.11.19 5.00pm	Y6	IL	All parents of children in Year 6 should attend
Flu Vaccinations	28.11.19	All	DS	
Head Teacher for a Day	29.11.19		MS	Details will be sent home in due course
Christmas Decoration morning	2.12.19 9.00-10.30am	All	CD	Help us get into the festive spirit!
Y2 Winter Wonderland concert	3.12.19	Y2	SP	
Y3 & 5 Music Performances	3.12.19	Y3, 5	GH, TKL	
Pantomime	6.12.19	All	GH	Whole school trip, late return to school
Christmas Jumper Day	13.12.19	All	LR	
Book Blink	13.12.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Christmas Show	17.12.19 2.00, 4.00	YR, 1, 2	CD, FL, SP	
Christmas Service	18.12.19 9.30am	All	LR, GH	Led by Y3,4; all invited to attend
Christmas Lunch	19.12.19	All	IL	
Carols Round the Tree	19.12.19 4.00	All	SM	
MUFTI	20.12.19	All		

Class Photos	25.2.20	All	DS	
Phonics Information Meeting	25.2.20 5.00pm	YR, 1, 2	SM	Information about how we teach phonics and the Statutory Phonics Screening
Book Week	2nd-6th March 2020	All	IL	
Book Blink	13.3.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Science Week	16th-20th March	All	TKL	
Parents Evenings	17.3.20 4.00-8.30pm	All		
KS1 SATs Information for parents	24.3.20 5.00	Y2	SM	
Easter Service	2.4.20 9.30am	All	FL, SP	Led by Years 1 &2, all families welcome
MUFTI	3.4.20	All		
INSET	20.4.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Relationships & Sex Education In-	28.4.20 5.00	All	MS	
Bend the Rules	1.5.20	All		
Bank Holiday	8.5.20			SCHOOL CLOSED
KS2 Test Week	11th-15th May	Y6	IL	All Y6 children MUST be in school
Book Blink	5.6.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Phonics Screening Checks	8th—12th June	Y1, 2	FL	
Sports Day & picnic	18.6.20	All	GH	
INSET	19.6.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Music Concert	10.7.20 2.00	All	MS	
Summer Show	14.7.20 5.00	Y3,4,5	GH, LR, TKL	
Leaver's Service	16.7.20 9.30	Y6	IL	
MUFTI	17.7.20	All		

Class Assemblies 2.30pm	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Robins	28th November	6th March	25th June
Whinchats	22nd November	28th February	3rd July
Canaries	15th November	7th February	12th June
Green Jays	29th November	14th February	22nd May
Kingfishers	8th November	31st January	15th May
Peacocks	1st November	24th January	1st May
Sabrewings	18th October	17th January	26th June



Following the success of last year, we are again hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on **Friday 27th September from 9.15 to 10.45**. Everyone is welcome to attend for a coffee, cake, chat and charity raising games! Pupils from a St James class will be helping serve and take donations from all attending.

Any and all donations of cakes (homemade or store-bought) will be gratefully received from the Wednesday and Thursday of that week.