



### Be COVID Aware

Do not come onto school site if you have any Coronavirus symptoms, & get tested. Maintain social distancing at all times. The symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

## Newsletter

# 18th September, 2020

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

Another busy week for us all as we adapt to all the new routines and arrangements. Thank you so much for everything you are doing to help keep our school as safe as possible—I know it's different and at times might cause you a bit of inconvenience, but by following our plans, you are really helping us—we want to keep our school open for the children so need everyone to work with us. We also really appreciate all your kind words and encouragement.

Our youngest children started school this week in Robins, and how lovely it's been to see them happily and confidently come into school. A very different start to school for them and for you, but everyone's coped brilliantly and made it all work for the children, who have obviously had a fantastic week!

Elsewhere in school, teachers have completed their initial assessments of where the children are in terms of academic levels and will be using this information to plan carefully to plug any gaps in learning which may be there following the Lockdown. We are, however, very impressed with where the children are in terms of their learning—it is obvious to us all that you did a great job home schooling your children last term! I am so impressed with how well children have returned to school, and how quickly they have adapted to the new routines and expectations, they are truly amazing!

Later in this newsletter is important information about how we will manage remote learning, please read this carefully so that you are clear about what we will be doing to ensure your child's access to education continues should they be away from school. There is also a really important form we need you to collect which will support our planning, please return these on Monday so we can collate the information quickly (via bookbags).

It's looking like this lovely weather will stay with us over the weekend; however you spend your time, please stay well,

Very best wishes,

Maria & all the team at St James'



### Book Amnesty

We are aware that many of you may have school reading and/or library books at home from last year (or previous years!) We are therefore holding a 'Book Amnesty' next week. There will be a collection point as you enter school to collect your children at the end of the day. **The book amnesty will be available from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.** Please do check your bookshelves over the week-end.

In order to maintain the one-way system and pupil safety, please do not return these books in the morning or send them into school with children (as we will need to make sure all returned books are cleaned).

Thank you.

Sarah Morton

### COVID updates

We have been advised that we are seeing seasonal colds and respiratory illness earlier than normal this year. This means that there are more of these illnesses circulating at the moment, and it is therefore important to recognise the difference between these and COVID-19.

Children with symptoms of the common cold, including runny noses and sore throats, can continue to attend school so long as they are well enough to do so. Please be aware that we are unable to advise on whether a child should be in attendance or not as parents are best placed to make the decision on whether their child is fit for school in the morning. Although we will help as much as we can, ultimately it's your decision; if you require medical advice, you should contact your GP, NHS119, or another medical professional.

Please follow the government guidelines and if your child is displaying any of the COVID symptoms they remain home until a negative test result can be obtained or until 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The government guidelines for parents/carers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>. Any siblings and other household members must also remain at home as per the guidance for household isolation which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### **The main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please also see attached a flowchart to help you understand the steps that you should take.

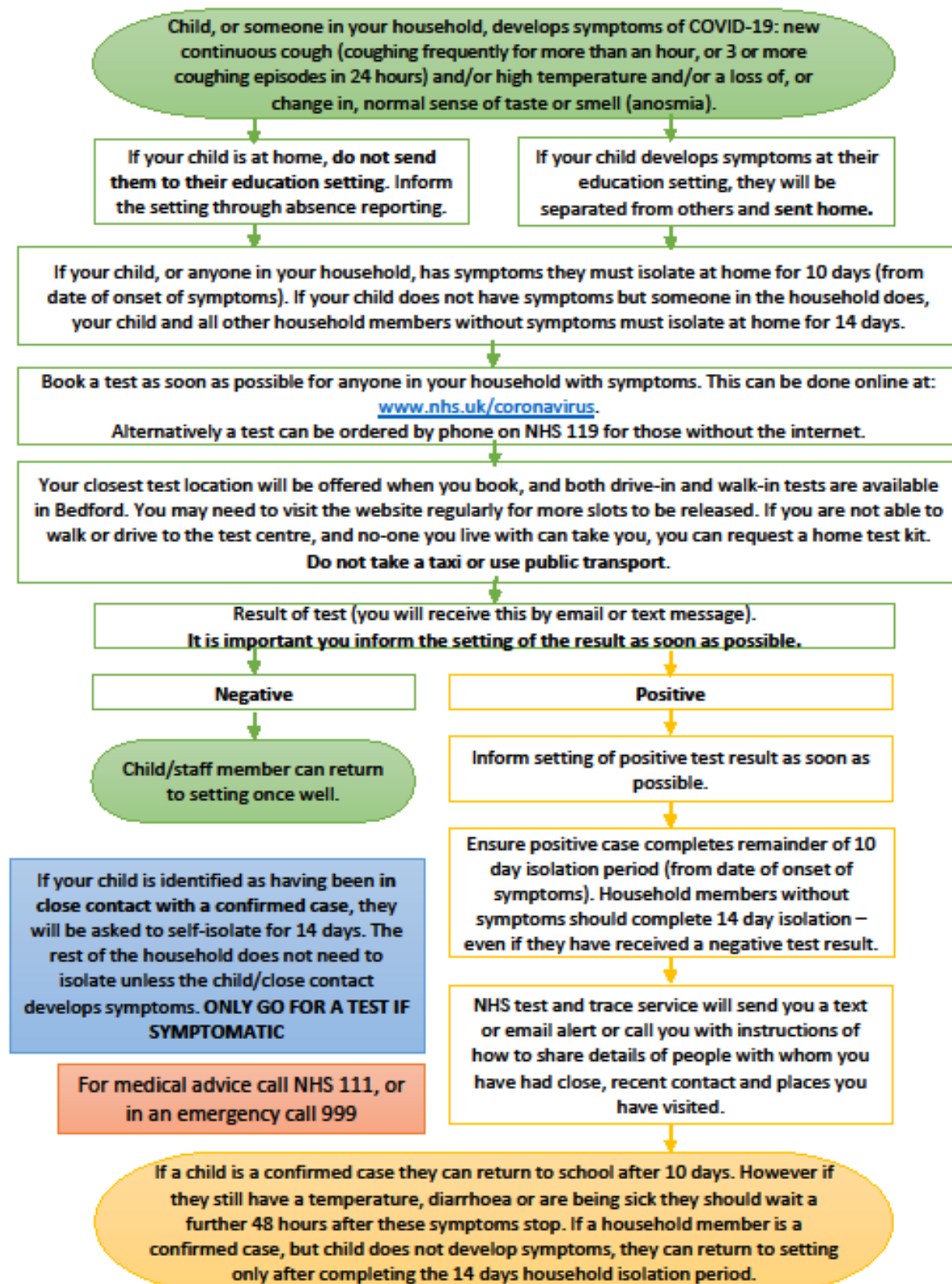
If your child does attend school and a member of staff feels your child has any of the above symptoms, you will be asked to collect your child/children immediately.

We are, unfortunately, unable to allow symptomatic children back into school until a negative test result has been received or until they have isolated for 10 days since the onset of symptoms.

Please remember that staff have a duty to follow the Government/Public Health/Local Authority guidance, and can not adapt or change these to suit individual needs or expectations. Please continue to be patient with us, especially when things aren't quite right, we are trying our very best and as always, need your support and help. Constructive criticism is welcome, rudeness is not.

## **Coronavirus information for Parents/Carers (Sept/October 2020)**

For general advice about COVID-19 and the symptoms to look for go to: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



### Contacting Staff

In most cases, should you have any concern about your child at school, you should firstly contact their class teacher. This is because this is the person who has the most contact with your child and will know most about their experience at school.

If you continue to be concerned, then you should contact a senior leader: Mr Leach for children in Years 3,4,5, and 6, and Mrs Morton for children in Robins, Years 1 and 2.

If, after following this process, you continue to be concerned, then please contact the Head Teacher, Ms Soulsby.

Concerns about children with SEND are referred to our SENDCo, Mrs Morton.

There will be situations where you make contact with an individual member of staff and he/she decides to refer the matter to another member of staff who is better placed to address the concern. This is so we can act quickly and effectively. We will not respond to anonymous concerns.

At the moment, we are asking parents to contact teachers by either emailing the school office (office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk) or by telephoning and asking for a call back. It is helpful if you can give us the best times to contact you. Teachers will endeavour to get back to you as soon as they can, and at least within 5 school days. Please be patient, however, and understand that they will usually be teaching throughout the day, have meetings after school and are receiving a much higher than usual number of emails and phone calls. Please do not expect them to respond outside of usual business hours (that is in the evenings after 6:00 or over weekends.)

Our full concerns, complaints and compliments policy is available on our website.

### Remote Learning

We will provide remote learning for any child away from school due to COVID.

From Monday:

- if your child is absent from school for any COVID related reason, please telephone and let us know.
- Remote Learning packs will be available on the school website from **Monday lunchtime**—these will include links to online video lessons, as well as copies of worksheets etc. The learning set will link to planned learning in class, but may not exactly replicate this.
- You can either print these packs at home, or ask the school to print a copy which can be collected by a parent/carer—**you must tell us if a printed copy is needed**, and you must liaise with the school office to agree a time to collect. Do not turn up at school expecting it to be ready.
- Teachers will stay in contact with your child, they will aim to make contact every day by phone but circumstances may mean this is not always possible—please understand that their priority will be to speak with your child.
- Every child has been sent home today with two **Remote Learning exercise books**—please keep these safe. If these are misplaced or misused, then you will be expected to provide paper etc if your child is at home.

The staff are working incredibly hard to prepare themselves to be able to teach remotely in the event of a class/school closure, or if they are required to isolate at home. In this circumstance, we will be teaching using Microsoft Teams. Currently, staff are learning how to use this for themselves, and we are also working to make arrangements for every child to have their own email address.

To move forward with our planning, we need some information from you, and a slip has been sent home asking for information about the access your child has to the internet and digital devices—it **is incredibly important that you complete this slip now** so that we can plan effectively; failure to do so might mean your child is unable to access learning in the event of a school/class closure.



POSITIVELY YOGA

## YOGA CLASSES NEAR YOU

All ages and abilities welcome (including wheelchair users).

Keeley Frampton of Positively Yoga is passionate about bringing the benefits of yoga to all ages and bodies and promises not to make you bend like a pretzel (unless you want to!).

Keeley's yoga classes incorporate a variety of yogic styles, breath techniques, mindfulness, and meditation.

Please email Keeley at  
info@iampositivelyyoga.com  
call 07874781076 or visit  
www.iampositivelyyoga.com to book

## TIMETABLE

### Biddenham Pavilion

Mondays, 2pm to 3pm - yoga  
Thursdays, 2.30pm to 3.30pm - chair yoga

### Great Denham Community Hall

Tuesdays, 10.30am to 11.30am - chair yoga

### Stagsden Village Hall

Wednesdays, 1.30pm to 2.30pm - yoga  
Wednesdays, 3pm to 4pm - chair yoga

### Online

Mondays, 5.30pm to 6.30pm - chair yoga  
Tuesdays, 7am to 8am - yoga

£8 per class (£6 online). Discounts for block bookings.

Bring a friend for FREE during September and October 2020.

### Remote learning

There is a strong possibility that over the coming months your child may encounter periods of time where they will be learning remotely from home. This may be if they or a family member needs to self-isolate, if their class needs to self-isolate, or indeed if there is a local lockdown.

In order to make necessary teaching plans, we need to know the level of internet and computer/device access your child has available at home.

Childs name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tick ✓ all that apply**

- ☐ My child has access to their own computer/laptop/tablet
- ☐ My child has access to a smartphone
- ☐ The computer/laptop/tablet is shared between siblings
- ☐ The only devices available are for working parent/s and therefore my child's access would be limited
- ☐ We have limited/no internet access

***Please complete this slip and return via your child's reading record book on Monday, 18th September***

***A printed copy of this form has been sent to every child today.***