



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

25th September, 2020

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

A note of thank yous....

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our families of children in Robins for bearing with us while we worked out the best way for your children to come into school. We didn't get things right at the start of the week, but with your feedback and support, we've worked out arrangements which are much more effective and allow for a much gentler and kinder arrival to school for your children.

A massive thank you to D'arci's mum, who has managed to get a donation of tulip bulbs from Bedford Borough Council, to be planted in our grounds. This means that after the upcoming, challenging winter, we will be greeted by much needed colour and cheer in the Spring. Thanks so much!

Finally, a thank you to all of you who read the weekly newsletter! The newsletter takes quite a bit of time and effort to put together. Similarly, teachers spend a considerable amount of time preparing their termly Curriculum Newsletters, so you have a good understanding of what is happening in class. Over the last few weeks, I have been staggered by the numbers of parents who clearly don't read anything we send out, and then have to contact us with their individual queries, all of which have been answered via newsletters. Thank goodness we don't have 180 of you requiring individual responses about information already provided! So, thank you to all of you who are reading this today; by doing so, you are really helping us to work as effectively and efficiently as we can, in the most challenging circumstances any of us have ever faced, and we do really appreciate it!

We are now hearing about confirmed COVID cases within schools, which are affecting both children and staff, and given the latest round of restrictions, we know we are heading into another challenging period both locally and as a country. Please see my note later in the newsletter with a few requests to help us continue to keep our school COVID-free.

The staff have shown great commitment and resilience so far this term, and have worked round the clock to implement new routines, support the children both academically and pastorally, assess where there may be gaps in learning, maintain contact with you in ways other than face to face - they are working incredibly long hours, often at school for 12 hours a day, working in ways that you don't necessarily see. Teaching has never been a job where one leaves at 4:00, as is often thought, but this term the workload has increased and intensified significantly. I can not thank them all enough - we really are blessed to have such an amazing team here, and I know many of you greatly value their professionalism and commitment to your children.

In amongst the new ways of working is the normality of school for your children - they are seriously impressive and resilient people, just taking it all in their stride and getting on with whatever comes their way. Walking into classrooms, you'd never know that the world around them has changed so much over the past months. They are focused, working hard, learning well, behaving amazingly, showing such kindness towards each other and are just incredibly positive. They are an absolute credit to you all.

Thank you everyone! I hope you enjoy a restful and peaceful weekend,
With all good wishes,
Maria & all the team at St James'

COVID updates

We need to work together to protect everyone within our school community: parents, staff and children, so that we are not placed in a situation where I have to close either classes or the whole school - this is a scenario that none of us want.

To protect everyone even more as we head into more challenging times, I ask all of you to consider the following actions which you could take to help:

- When dropping your children off in the morning, please do not gather at the entrance to the drive. Instead, please wait on the grass (not the path) and do not congregate on the Nodders Lane side of the drive. This will help keep busy areas clear, and thus maintain distance between adults.
- When your child has come into school, please resist the temptation to stand at the end of the drive and watch them walk in. There are staff on site supervising and they will make sure they make it into school. Parents watching blocks the entrance for others, it is much more helpful if you leave the area as quickly as possible.
- Please avoid gathering at the entrance/exits if you have a dog with you—many children are nervous about dogs and their presence makes it difficult for some children to enter/leave school.
- At the end of the day, please wait patiently for people in front of you to exit the pedestrian gate. I have noticed a number of parents overtaking/pushing in front of others, which again does not help to keep people distanced. Please just wait in the line patiently and allow others in front of you to collect their siblings, bikes scooters etc and then exit the school site.
- When outside of school, please keep the pathways clear for other pedestrians, and try to avoid congregating - I know you enjoy catching up with one another, but maybe you could do this away from the school entrances, so that others can move about easily? Please remember the rule of 6 and to stay socially distanced.
- All visitors on site are required to use hand sanitiser as they enter, this includes parents.
- Please do not try to speak with teachers at the classroom doors as this presents all sorts of problems. Contact with teachers is via email or telephone only, once your message is received, please allow up to 5 school days for a response. Teachers will prioritise contact with children who are isolating ahead of all other requests for contact.
- Please remember that children can not go back into school to collect forgotten items, go to the toilet etc - teachers work hard to make sure children have everything ready at home time, but they will inevitably forget something, which will still be there the next day. If it's a really urgent item, please come to the office and staff will recover it for you.

I know all this is difficult and not our usual way of working, and we'd rather not have to be running the school like this, but it's essential that direct contact is reduced as much as possible if we are to keep everyone as safe as possible.

All of our arrangements are constantly reviewed and refined as we know we can always improve what's in place - none of us have ever been in this situation before and it's impossible to plan for every eventuality; as always, your support, patience, understanding and encouragement is very greatly appreciated, and never has it been so needed!

From the Office...

Individual Tempest Photographs - Friday 2nd October 2020

Every year, we invite a professional photographer into school to take photos of your children. We are pleased to announce that we are able to go ahead with Individual pupil photographs this year. This will take place on Friday 2nd October. However, unfortunately due to the current circumstances we are unable to offer sibling photographs.

We will be using a company called Tempest to take your child's photograph on Friday 2nd October 2020.

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 put this in writing 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.

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 £2.15 per day, £10.75 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.****

Walk to School Week - 5th to 9th October



For this year's 'Walk to School Week' we are holding a class walking to school challenge. The aim is to walk to and from school, every day in that week and help your class walk the most. We understand that some of you do live further away and need to travel by car so please park at either end of the village and then walk in.

On Wednesday 7th October (which is Walk to School day), we will be holding a mufti day, so please wear your rainbow sports clothing and march to school showing off your bright colours. During our assembly on Wednesday, each class will be able to show off their bright colours. Several representatives from each class will be explaining how walking to school is so important, linking this to our curriculum drivers.

We know some classes are larger than others, so the final result will be announced as a percentage. The prize for the winning class will be a Soulsby treat - the winning class will be announced in our Friday celebration assembly. We would really like you all to get behind this challenge as it fits into our curriculum drivers, such as our interest and concern for the environment, climate change, physical wellbeing and parental involvement.

We hope you will participate in this challenge this October and moving forward, walking to school could become part of your daily routine!

Thank you

Mrs Doughty and Mrs Lawless

Remote Learning

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

- 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.

Thank you for returning your slips giving us information about your child's access to digital resources/internet at home. This will be helpful to us as we move forward with our planning.

In the past week, we have created email addresses for all children, which will be used to help them log on to Microsoft Teams. In the coming week, teachers will be trialling the use of Teams with individual families and children, so we can check the technology will work and iron out any problems. In due course, this will be rolled out to all families, so please keep a look out for updates.



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.

DAWNUNTILDUK
BEFORE, AFTER SCHOOL & HOLIDAY CLUB



Please contact our club manager Cathy on 07826100013

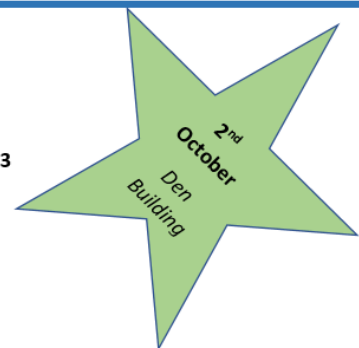
To make you're booking

Friday Theme Nights

At

St James

Not to be missed





BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Information Sheet Starting School 2021

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting school (Year R) for the first time in September 2021 explains how to apply for a lower/primary school place for a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017.

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool. It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, Starting School 2021, 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 requested from your local Bedford Borough lower/primary school or by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must complete your home Local Authority's application form and return it to them. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 15 January 2021

Starting School Admissions Timetable

September 2020

We will publish information about the Starting School process.



26 September 2020 – 15 January 2021

You can apply online or you can complete and return a paper application form to the School Admissions Service.



15 January 2021

Last day for applications.



16 April 2021

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.

St James' has not yet decided how we will support visits from prospective parents and are not currently offering tours of the school, due to COVID restrictions. When we have confirmed our plans, these will be uploaded onto our website. This is likely to be mid-late October.

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 primaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk	Northamptonshire Tel: 0300 126 1000 admissions@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk

Live virtual Open Evening talks - Monday 28th September 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Please email enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk to book your place

CHILD IN YEAR 6?

CHOOSING THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL THIS YEAR?

Find out more about Biddenham through our information and events programme on our website.

Running throughout September and October.

All our students are given their own laptop on entry into the school.



OPENING MINDS - TRANSFORMING LIVES



Biddenham
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk

01234 342521 Find us on @BiddenhamIntSch

Lincroft Academy

Community, Growth and Excellence

Executive Principal: Iain Denning BA MA NPQH
Academy Principal: Mr A Hencken BA NPQH



September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 6 Students

YEAR 7 TRANSFER TO LINCROFT ACADEMY: SEPTEMBER 2021

We would like to invite you to access our virtual open evening presentation which will go live on our website from Thursday 1 October.

The online content will include a presentation from the Principal and Head of Year 7, messages from our students, guidance on the admissions process and videos which we hope will give parents and students a flavour of life at Lincroft Academy. After accessing the presentations, if you or your child have any questions, we would ask you to email them to us via our dedicated inbox - admissions@lincroft.beds.sch.uk

Our updated school prospectus will also be available to view on the website, <https://www.lincroft.beds.sch.uk/> and further information about the Academy will be made available online on the 'Year 6 Virtual Open Evening' page.

Whilst we cannot welcome parents and students onto site this year, we hope that as many of you as possible will access this information to find out more about Lincroft Academy.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Hencken
Principal

COMMUNITY MINDED THROUGH DRIVE AND ASPIRATION

Join us at our

Open Morning

Saturday 3rd October 9am – 12pm

Tours are 45mins each by appointment only and are a great opportunity to tour our special building and experience our facilities.

Please click the link to complete a registration form:
<https://www.bedfordacademy.co.uk/search/open-days/35.html>



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01234 301500
www.bedfordacademy.co.uk

