

St James' Primary School

Main Road, Biddenham MK40 4BD

Telephone: 01234 352721

Email: office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

Website: www.stjamesprimary.org.uk



ST JAMES'
PRIMARY SCHOOL

4th January, 2021

Dear Parents,

Further to the letter sent home over the weekend, I write to confirm arrangements for the next two weeks.

Children attending school

Thank you for letting us know that you are a keyworker and need your child to be in school. All those of who have contacted us will be accommodated in school. If you have not contacted us, we have assumed your child will stay at home and have not allocated them a keyworker place.

Most importantly, please do not send your child to school if they are unwell or showing any symptoms of COVID.

Drop off from 8.40 at the end of the school drive. Children will then make their way to their class. The gates will close at 8.55;

Robins need to be in class by 8.55 at the very latest, so that Mrs Doughty can start the Teams session promptly at 9.00.

Pick up from 3.15-3.30, following the same procedures as last term (ie from the classroom, using one way system, sibling collection point)

Children will spend the day in their classrooms with their teachers and will experience as close to a 'normal' school day as possible (with some exceptions, as explained below). **Hot lunches will be provided**, although these will be eaten in the classrooms (there are fewer children and we want to try and keep bubbles as separate as possible). They should wear uniform and bring with them their usual school equipment, including reading books and the yellow/blue home learning books which were sent home last term. Class teachers will advise you of PE days in due course.

Key worker children do not need to be in school every day. If they are at home, we would expect them to access remote learning as detailed below.

We have invited a number of children to come into school where we feel this will benefit specific needs; these children are expected to be in school each day.

Dawn Until Dusk have confirmed that they are not able to provide childcare over the next two weeks. I am really grateful to the school staff who have agreed to work together to provide additional childcare to further support keyworker parents from 8.00 am, and until 4.30 pm, in the school Hall. Hopefully, this will enable you to continue working, if not, please let us know as we will try to make further provisions. This offer is made to key workers who are already registered with Dawn Until Dusk, and use this on a regular basis and is made as an offer of support to those parents who are involved in the frontline of the pandemic (medics, police, school staff etc) – **please only use this if you really need it**. It will help me tremendously if you would let me as soon as possible if you think you will need to use this provision; please email head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk and clearly state the days required and whether morning/afternoon is needed, or you can jot down your requirements in a note - I will be in the Hall tomorrow morning from 8.00. Thank you.

Rainbow Club on Friday afternoons will continue until 3.30pm.

Unfortunately, some of our staff are not able to return to work, due to COVID.

Mrs Lawless and Mrs Botrugno are not yet able to be in school. Existing staff will support children in school, and Mrs Lawless will be available remotely through Teams.

Mrs Hawkins is not well and will not be working. Miss Robson will be covering Year 3 for the foreseeable future, supported by Mrs Wilding and senior staff.



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Children at home

Remote Learning packs will be posted on the website, as usual. If you need to have these printed for you, please contact the school office to arrange a time when you can collect these. I will be uploading this week's packs onto the website as soon as I can this afternoon.

Teams meetings will take place each day at the following times:

Time	Year Group
9.00-9.30	YR
9.30-10.00	Y1
10.00-10.30	Y2
10.30-11.00	Y3 and Y6
11.00-11.30	Y4
11.30-12.00	Y5
12.00-12.30	YR
12.30-1.00	Y1
1.00-1.30	Y2
1.30-2.00	Y3 and Y6
2.00-2.30	Y4
2.30-3.00	Y5

We expect all children to attend both sessions, unless they are unwell. We do understand that sometimes technology fails, and that in some households there will be difficulty in children accessing a computer, so please don't worry if you can't access the sessions. Please advise the school office via email if your child is not able to attend a session, and teachers will make a telephone call home to check in with your child.

For those of you who have children entitled to Free School meals, arrangements are being made to provide food hampers for you to collect; we will advise you directly when these are ready.

Children will be able to upload any work via Teams, and will also be able to use the Chat function to send messages/ask questions to their teachers. Teachers will show children how to do this during the daily sessions – you may find it helpful to sit in on these early sessions. If you need to contact a teacher, please continue to use the Office email address.

Children at home will not be able to change their reading books. However, you are able to sign up to a free e-library which allows your child to read from a wide range of e-books. This can be found at

[Free eBook library | Oxford Owl from Oxford University Press](#) Please continue to use your child's reading record.

'It takes a village to raise a child.'



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There's such a lot to consider and work out, and while I think we've got everything covered, there may well be things we've forgotten! If we've missed something, please let us know; if the arrangements prove too difficult for you to work around, let us know and we try to find solutions. We're very mindful of the disruption this situation will have caused and are trying to make sure that we are able to ensure continuity in terms of children's learning whilst also supporting those of you who are still working so hard in keeping essential services going during the pandemic. For those of you at home, we know that there may be challenges for you as well; please do what you can in terms of children's learning – we know many of you also trying to work! – and if things get too tough, please let us know, we are still here and will support you in any way we can.

Thank you so much for all your messages of support and your understanding in response to the decisions made. Delaying the start of term is truly the last thing we want to be doing, and I do understand the difficulties this will present to many of you, but the health of our children, staff, you and your families is always our main concern. All of the staff who are able will be in school each day supporting all children, whether in school or at home, and we will continue to work alongside you to help make this situation as easy as possible for you and your children.

Very best wishes,

Maria Soulsby
Head Teacher

'It takes a village to raise a child.'

