



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

15th January, 2021

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

Week 2 of Lockdown, and you are all doing brilliantly! I am so impressed with the ways in which you are supporting your children at home, juggling all the demands being made of you and coping with the significant impact this Lockdown has had on you and your life. Our staff are working so hard to make Lockdown learning work for the children; they are now effectively teaching two classes, one in school face to face, and another at home via Teams, it's multi-tasking as we've never experienced before! As time goes on, we're getting better at managing this process and I know many of you have appreciated the way in which things are working.

I know that there will be times when frustration may bubble over into anger and that at times we may seek to blame someone else for the challenges we're facing, certainly I've experienced that. But—and it's a big but—the situation we're in is no-one's fault, and we all owe it to each other to try and get through each day with compassion, towards ourselves and each other. There's a lovely analogy which may help with this; we're all in the same storm, but not necessarily in the same boat. Some of us will have a super yacht, others may only have one oar. The effects and outcomes of this Lockdown will be different for us all—what's important to remember is that we reach out when our boats become more unstable, as the people close to us may be steady in our boats. It's important we keep looking out for and after each other and sharing our experiences, and understanding when we're not coping.

You are never alone in your most difficult times, please reach out for support and help. For me, I take great comfort in the knowledge that even in my loneliest moments, I am never completely alone—In the Bible, Jesus says 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age', and this keeps me going!

Keep going, because you are all doing an amazing job, whether you're a parent, child or member of staff, and you have my complete admiration!



Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'

Please remember: COVID cases in Bedford are still very high indeed. Stay home as much as possible. Those of you whose children are coming into school, please don't let them attend if they are showing any signs of illness.

Remote Learning—FAQs

How is St James' providing learning opportunities for children at home?

On Monday mornings, we publish a remote learning pack for each class on our website. You can print this at home, or you can collect a printed pack from school on **Mondays from 10.00-3.00**. Teachers will also make this available on the Class Teams page.

Every morning and afternoon, each class has a timetabled Teams meeting. Teachers will use this time to guide children through the timetable, answer any queries, provide feedback etc

Why are you only offering half hour Teams meetings? Shouldn't you be live teaching for the day or recording videos? Other schools are...

Many of our families have several children sharing one computer. By allocating slots to each class, this means every child can access their Teams meeting without any conflict with their brothers/sisters.

The Government expectation is that schools provide, on average, a certain number of hours for remote learning a day. Remote learning and live teaching are not the same thing, and Ofsted research suggests that live teaching is not always the most effective way of supporting remote learning.

We also must remember that our teachers are also supporting children in school. They are effectively running two classes. To expect them to live teach, record videos etc will significantly add to their workload, which, given they are already working long hours, is not acceptable. We have a duty to support a healthy work-life balance. We are making use of quality resources through White Rose maths and the National Oak Academy, both of which provide quality teaching and learning.

Other schools may be providing more live teaching than us. They tend to be secondary schools or larger primary schools where there are two classes per year group, which means one teacher is in the classroom and the other is online. We do not have that level of available resource. We are doing our very best to provide the best remote learning we possibly can!

How will you provide feedback? Why aren't you marking all work?

As in the classroom, most feedback will be verbal and will be given during the Teams sessions. Some work may be marked, but not all, and that matches our practice in school—we believe the most powerful feedback is immediate, individualised and verbal. Teachers monitor work completion, and note any misconceptions/difficulties which will be picked up in future planning. As time goes on, we will become more proficient with the technology and will be able to spend less time making the tech work and therefore more time focussed on the specifics of learning. Please remember that the teachers are learning as well, in September none of us had ever used Teams before!

Does my child have to complete every piece of work?

The work provided is a guideline of what we need to cover in terms of the curriculum. If you can not manage every piece of work (because you're working, or because you have several children to monitor), please don't worry. We would like every child to at least access every activity, even if just for a shorter time. But we won't be critical of you if you don't manage this—as long as they are accessing some form of remote learning every day and attend at least one Teams meeting, that is fine. Please prioritise maths and reading.

Why do you keep calling me?

If we don't see your child in a Teams meeting, we may telephone you. This is just to check that everything is ok and also to maintain daily contact with your child so that they still feel part of the school.

What can I do if it's getting too much?

Please don't allow yourselves to become stressed or anxious. We know how tough this is, we're feeling it too! Please talk to us and we will do our absolute best to help!

St James' Family Page

Everyone—parents, staff, children are invited to contribute articles for the newsletter, so that we can all stay in touch with our wider school family.

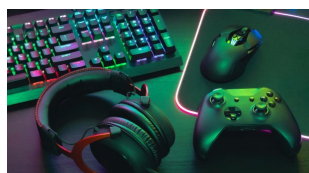
Please send articles, photographs, top tips, other remote learning opportunities, Zoom events, thoughts & reflections etc to Ms Soulsby by Thursday afternoon: head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

Please send me anything you'd like to contribute to head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk by Thursday afternoon.



You may have heard of the website Reading Egg which you normally have to pay a subscription for. Currently you can get a 30 day free trial so I am forwarding the email to you as some parents might want to try it out. Y really enjoys it and it gets him to read and spell!

Sign up at <https://readingeggs.co.uk/tel466uk> before 31st January and follow the prompts – it's that easy!



<https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning>

How to use an X-box or Playstation for online learning

Year 5/6 Online Maths Tutoring

Do you need some maths practice for your upcoming SATS?

My name is Lily Galbraith (I'm based in Bedford) and I am looking for some students to tutor for work experience and also to help you! I'm 15, In year 10 at school and I would like to help you achieve the best results you can in your maths SATS!

30-minute sessions -£5

1hr sessions -£10

If you are interested, you can give me a ring or text on 07496396107 or email me at lilygalbraith05@outlook.com.

Lily is an ex pupil of St James' and is a lovely girl!



M is staying fit at home and is practising her ballet skills—well done!

Join in with our assemblies with Ms Soulsby **Monday-Thursday 2.15-2.45**

Chat, catch up, singing and collective worship

Today's date is the 12.1.21. This is a palindrome. A palindrome is something that reads the same backwards as forwards. Some other palindromes are racecar, noon, wow and rotator.

Arthur M

Monday	Catch up, weekend news, say hello
Tuesday	Collective worship based on our school values
Wednesday	Worship through singing & music
Thursday	God's Storyteller—engaging story which tells us more about Jesus.