



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:

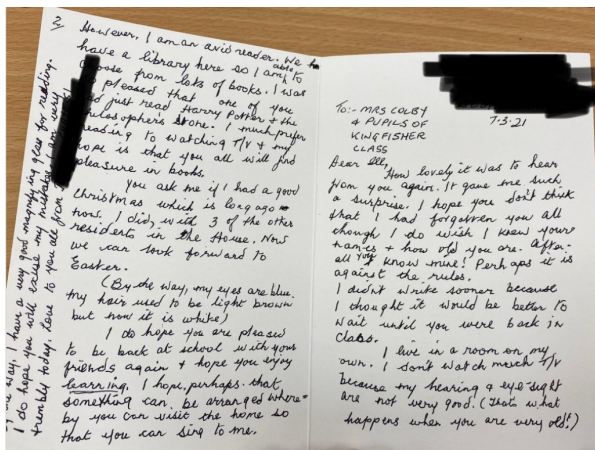
- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

Newsletter 19th March, 2021

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

All of our children are gifted and talented!

The Bible tells us that each of us have been given special gifts and talents from God, and today we have witnessed just a small number of the gifts and talents of your children. Our annual St James' Has Got Talent show was a bit different, in that we watched it via Teams, rather than in the hall, all together, but we were still able to enjoy a huge variety of different performances—from dancing, singing and music making, to card tricks, football skills, impersonations and even a lesson in the second world war. I'm always struck by the confidence the children display when sharing their special talent in front of the whole school and the bravery it takes to be in the spotlight. Well done to everyone involved!

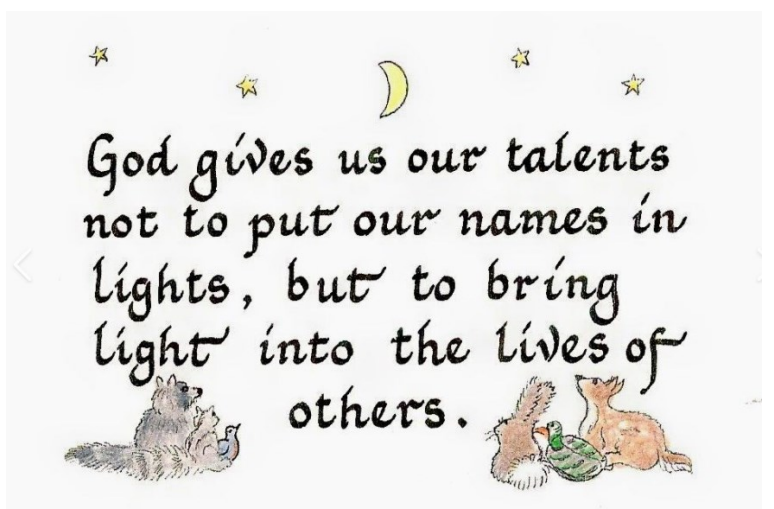


Although we had overall winners (Chikerum and Adam), we passionately believe that every single one of our children is gifted and talented, and that our job is to encourage all children to shine. We also encourage our children to learn how to use their special God-given gifts to the benefit of others, so that they may bring their light to the wider world. Kingfishers class have done just that—they have been writing to Phyllis who is a local resident who recently celebrated her 100th birthday—this week, they received a really lovely letter back from Phyllis, and it's clear that the children have made a positive impact. We must never under-estimate the power of kindness and giving others our time.

Although we've only just returned to school, next week sees our final week of term before the Easter break. Hopefully, when term restarts, there will be a further release from the COVID restrictions we've experienced. Please remember, however, that we do still need to be sensible and careful in order to keep each other safe.

As always, we wish you all a happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



COVID INFORMATION

Whilst it's good we're returning back to a level of normality, we all need to continue to be COVID-aware—none of us want to see another Lockdown or any sort of school/class closure.

Please remember:

- **no-one displaying symptoms of the virus should come anywhere near school.**
- **maintain social distancing** rules when on or around the school site
- **wear a face covering** when on the school site.
- **only one adult should come on site** to collect children, keep younger siblings by your side, older siblings should wait off-site.
- Please do not speak with staff at collection times; if you need to speak with your child's teacher, please either email or telephone the school office.
- Children should not return to classrooms if they have forgotten something, if it is an urgent item, then please walk round to the school office and a member of staff will recover it for you.
- Remember we operate a one way system—make sure if someone new is collecting your child from school that they know this.
- **adhere to the timings for arrival and pick up**, so that we can reduce the numbers of people entering and leaving the site.
- **Lateral Flow Testing** is available for all household with primary, secondary and college aged children. If you use these and test positive, then you and your household must follow self-isolation guidelines and arrange a PCR test. See last week's letter for further information.
- If your child needs to **self-isolate**, there are remote learning plans on the school website for each class. If you will need these printed, then please contact the school office. If we send home a class, we will endeavour to print these out to come home with each child.

www.stjamesvalower.org.uk/children/our-classes

Easter holidays Contact Tracing—Please inform the school of a positive case where symptoms developed within 48 hours of being in school. You should notify the school by emailing head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk. This email will be checked daily at 10am until Thursday, 1st April. If close contacts are identified, they will be notified via a short message on Marvellous Me, with more details made available on the relevant class pages on the school website. If symptoms develop more than 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to notify the school, although will still need to take a test and follow self-isolation rules.

Free School Meals Easter Holidays—vouchers will be issued via Bedford Borough Council, as previously done at Christmas and Half Term. Any queries or problems, please contact Bedford Borough Council, which runs this scheme.



To make a donation, please go to [Donate](#) | [Comic Relief](#)

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOOD PROGRAMME

An exciting range of opportunities for **children in receipt of Free School Meals** and **those with identified Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)** over the Easter Holiday.

All activities are **FREE** of charge!

Activities include Active Holiday Playschemes, activity packs, SEND family swim and inflatable sessions, sensory room, multi-sports and a timetable of online activities.

Booking is essential and Free School Meal eligibility will be checked for specific opportunities.

Visit the Bedford Local Offer website for more information:
<https://tinyurl.com/BBLocalOfferHAF>

QUIZ

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

Saturday 17th April 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Our second online Zoom quiz with a Spring flavour! Suitable for all the family.

Free entry – but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/stjamespringquiz

To register and for participation details, email John Barkas at: stjamesquiz@mail.com (alternatively phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn

First of all we would like to say how wonderful it has been to welcome all of our children back into club. They have all settled back in so well and are all so happy to be back with their friends, playing games together, crafting and exercising outside in their bubbles.

Our theme will be Spring and Easter over the next week and activities within the club will reflect this.

Easter holiday clubs will be operating from, Shortstown Primary, Lakeview Pre-school and Shefford Lower School. Please contact Head Office to book a place/s.

We do currently have spaces available for both before and after school sessions throughout the week. If you would like to discuss availability of places please feel free to give us a call or message on this number, 07826 100013.

Cathy, Jess and Kelly

Dawn until Dusk Ltd
 4 Warren Court, Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5QB
 Tel: 01234 930505 Mobile: 07826100013
 Email: info@kidsdawnatildusk.co.uk



We're searching for new Cycle Instructors

Could you inspire the next generation of cyclists?

Outspoken Training are looking for confident communicators to enthuse school children to make more journeys by bicycle.

If you have loads of enthusiasm to share and are looking for rewarding work to deliver during school term time, we would love to hear from you.

Role: Freelance (self-employed)
 Hourly Rate: £12

Cycle Training Programme: Bikeability
 Training and Support: We provide full, free training and ongoing support including nationally recognised qualifications.

For more information, please contact Sean:
jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk
 01223 473820

Outspoken Training

"The teaching is a joy and I have the flexibility to deliver a course that engages and empowers the children in a fun way."

an Outspoken cycle instructor

outspokentraining.co.uk/vacancies

PSA now have pre-loved uniform for sale as well as a collection point by the pedestrian gate. Please feel free to deposit any outgrown uniform so that it can be reused. The stock list is available on the Classlist app. Branded items are £2 and other items are 50p. Please see the post on Classlist for further information. Huge thanks to Fiona Mitchell for organising this.