



### 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 9th July, 2021

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What a week! So much to share with you all.

Firstly.....the football. How amazing has it been, even for non-football fans like me! Sport is a great unifier, and I don't think any of us can fail to have been swept along by the excitement and sheer joy across the country at the moment. Sunday will be a fabulous experience, especially for us in Bedford; whichever way the result goes, Bedford will be celebrating. I know many of you will be watching on Sunday evening and that your children will want to be part of that, so on Monday, we will close our registers a little later than usual at 10.00. We will still open the gates at our usual time, but if your children do stay up late and need a little longer in bed on Monday morning, we are more than happy for them to arrive later—we'd rather have well rested children in school.

The other big news of the week is the updated guidance for schools following the Prime Minister's announcement regarding the end of COVID restrictions on 19th July. The guidance says that schools **may** remove their restrictions on the 19th if they wish. However, we do not propose to do so for the sake of the last 4 days in school—rates in Bedford are still relatively high and there are many schools which have a lot of children at home isolating. All of us want to enjoy our summer holiday, and we just don't feel it's worth the risk of potentially having a positive case in school which would lead to children and families having to isolate for the first part of the summer holidays. From September, however, we return to our normal routines, which includes staying fully open on Friday afternoons, and I will confirm all those routines with you before the end of the summer term.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed science workshops yesterday, thanks to the support of the PSA. Children used science to make whistles (apologies to families!), ice cream, and paint rockets. We had some lovely feedback From Little Science Lab—we know your children are great but it's always so lovely when strangers notice their brilliance! Sports Days are underway, with some more to take place next week. We had some special visitors on Tuesday morning—a duck family at the end of the drive!

Your children's end of year reports are being sent home today; any children who are absent will have their reports posted home in today's post. We have also told them who their new teachers will be for next year, and will have a 'moving up' morning for them to meet their teachers on Wednesday next week.

We wish you all a happy and restful weekend,  
Maria & all the team at St James'



Thankyou so much for having me today, the children were really a pleasure, so well behaved and engaged! It was a joy - so glad you got in touch 😊

### COVID Update

Please remember to keep your child at home if they show any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

We know that some children experience allergies/hayfever at this time of year, which may lead to coughing. We ask that if your child starts to cough, that you arrange for a COVID test, just in case; likewise, if staff notice a new cough, we will ask you to collect your child from school. We know we might be being ultra-cautious here, but we just want to make sure we can keep everyone safe. Other possible symptoms are shown below—if your child displays any of these, even if your best judgement is that it's not COVID-related, please get it checked out. Thank you!

Symptom	Coronavirus <i>Symptoms can range from mild to severe</i>
Fever	COMMON
Fatigue	SOMETIMES
Cough	COMMON
Loss of taste/smell	COMMON
Sneezing	NO
Aches & pains	SOMETIMES
Runny or stuff nose	RARE
Sore throat	SOMETIMES
Diarrhoea	RARE
Headache	SOMETIMES
Shortness of breath	SOMETIMES

**If your child is told to self-isolate, they must do so for the full 10 days, even if they receive a negative PCR test result.**

### Soundcloud—Parents' Evening Booking System

In your child's report is a letter which contains all the information you will need to book a slot to meet with your child's teacher, should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's report. Parent's Evenings this term will be held virtually; in the future we will continue to use this booking system.

<https://stjamesvaprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

**Summer Term Dates Ahead**  
**(COVID restrictions may apply)**

**Y6 Transition Days for secondary schools have been cancelled, and are taking place virtually. Please ensure you know what the arrangements are for your child's school.**

12th July	Y5 Sports Day <b>YR and 1 African Animals Experience</b>
13th July	YR Sports Day Scootability sessions for Years 1 & 2
13th July	Parents evening
14th July	Moving Up morning—time in new classes
15th July	Y6 Sports Day Y2 Art Day with Katie Allen Shadow Puppetry workshop for Years 3 & 4
16th July	Non-uniform day in aid of Making Me charity
19th July	Y6 Leavers Event 3
<b>20th July</b>	<b>Y4 trip to the pizzeria</b>
<b>21st July</b>	<b>Y6 Leavers Event 2.00</b>
22nd July	Last day of term

We previously indicated that we were hoping to hold a whole school event in the last week of term, to which we would be able to invite parents.

We're still awaiting confirmation of bookings, but considering the on-going COVID situation in Bedford and the risk that any positive COVID cases so close to the summer holidays, we have decided that it would be unwise to invite parents to this. We really wanted to have a whole school family event this year and are disappointed that we can't do this, but hope you understand the rationale behind our decision—we just want to protect your summer holidays!

**Friday, 16th July—Non Uniform Day**

Recently, children across the school have benefitted from working with the Making Me charity, helping them understand and manage their mental health needs and talking about how they feel about the challenges they face. On Friday, we'd like to support this Bedford based charity to help them further with this important work, so will hold a non-uniform day in return for a donation from families; we suggest a donation of £1 per child. Thank you for your support.

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## IMPORTANT!

**IF YOU REQUIRE YOUR UNIFORM BEFORE THE START OF TERM, IT MUST BE ORDERED NO LATER THAN 2ND AUGUST TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

We will do everything we can to get orders out quickly but please be aware that if the current Covid restrictions change, this could lead to delays in dispatch and delivery.

This message is particularly important for NEW STARTERS, as they have no existing uniform to wear!



**Thank you and have a great summer!**

*The Mapac Team*

Place your order at:  
**[www.mapac.com/education/parents](http://www.mapac.com/education/parents)**

For updates on orders,  
please email **[tracking@mapac.net](mailto:tracking@mapac.net)**

If for any reason you are unhappy with your order,  
please email **[customerservice@mapac.net](mailto:customerservice@mapac.net)**



## **Message from Bedfordshire Police—Do not ride electric scooters outside the school.**

I am making contact with you around the very topical, and divisive issue of riding e-scooters.

Bedfordshire police have seen an increase in complaints from members of the public, and local councillors around the use of e-scooters in public. Some of these relating specifically to students riding them to school, or parents riding them whilst carrying small children.

We are therefore asking for the assistance of every school in the borough to share a few key messages with you all, in the hope we can prevent this from continuing and possibly save lives.

### **It is against the law to use e-scooters on public land unless it is part of a government scheme.**

The scheme has various measures in place to maximise the safety of their use, with the long-term view of seeing how they can be incorporated into UK law. At present, Bedford is not part of this trial, and to date there are no plans for us to be part of it in the future. **Therefore riding them in public is illegal.**

We have carried out several local campaigns on social media, which has been shared by local newspapers and we have been proactively stopping riders and providing them with educational literature around riding e-scooters. Our aim has been to educate riders not to use them on public land, as we are well aware some people have genuinely been unaware of the laws around their use. There have also been several e-scooter stories in the national media, featuring on Sky and BBC news in an endeavour to get the message out to as many people as possible.

**As of the 5th July we will be moving out of the educational phase, to one of enforcement when dealing with e-scooters,** hence my contact with you all.

Our plea is this, we really do not want to see any young people affected by this, if they were to be prosecuted they could end up with points on their licence before they even have one and this could really impact them getting a licence later on in their adult life. Points remain on a licence for 3 years, and for insurance reasons they show for 4 years. This means they could apply for a provisional licence and already have points waiting for them, or even worse they could be banned before they even apply for one.

This is something we absolutely want to avoid, so please if your child has an e-scooter don't allow them to ride it on public land. We genuinely do not want them to be prosecuted, and have their expensive equipment seized.

Please remember:

- **It is illegal to ride e-scooters on public land.**
- It is only currently legal to use these on private land with the landowners permission, or in areas running a government scheme. The e scooter however needs to be rented as part of that scheme due to liability insurance.
- **An e-scooter is classed as a motor vehicle and if you ride one in public it has the same expectations on you as it would do when driving a car. i.e. the need to have insurance, MOT, tax etc.**

**If you ride your e-scooter in public you risk having your e-scooter seized, being fined up to £300 and receiving six points on your licence. This will be the case whether you have a licence or not.**

Thank you.

Bedfordshire Police



In case you hadn't noticed, it may be coming home. This week in our collective worship, we have been inspired by the football, and Gareth Southgate in particular. If you haven't read his ['Dear England' letter](#), it really is well worth a read—he writes about the values which are important to him and his team, and the pride with which they represent the country. We've talked about the things we can learn from Gareth Southgate as he leads his team through the Euros—the importance of being a team player, how we can turn failure on its head, the importance of talking about the tough stuff, how we can write our own stories, the importance of celebrating other people's wins, how to silence the haters and that sometimes it's not all about ourself and the importance of humility. I used this picture

to tell his story from 1996 to now, and how he has used the tough stuff to write his own story, and invited the children to reflect on their own stories; I've also invited staff and children to reflect on what they would say to their younger self, and I invite you to share in that reflection—**if you could put your arm around your younger self at a particular moment, what would you say?**

As you settle to watch the match on Sunday, please find some time to talk to your children about the values which the best of sport embodies—values we share as a school—koinonia (that sense of togetherness), joy (celebrating in each other's wins), honesty (facing up to and talking about the tough stuff), perseverance and patience (none of those players have got to where they are by chance), and talk about how to have pride whilst being humble—whoever wins on Sunday, let's celebrate and give thanks for the efforts of both teams as they entertain and inspire us, remembering that Bedford will celebrate whatever the results!

We've had a tough year, times of sadness, frustration, loneliness—this weekend is a time to be joyous and celebrate, whether we support England or Italy (or neither)!

