



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

16th July, 2021

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The end of the year seems to always hit us by surprise—one week to go and still so much to do!

All classes have enjoyed their Sports Days and we've seen lots of excellent team work and sportsmanship—when Mrs Hawkins is back on Monday, she will tot up all the points and we will announce the overall winning team. On Monday, Robins and Whinchats enjoyed their African animals experience—the children met a meerkat, some lizards and a python. I was really impressed by the sensitivity and respect the children showed for all the animals. Greenjays and Kingfishers enjoyed their shadow puppetry workshop, we hope they've demonstrated some of their new found skills to you at home! Canaries had a wonderful art day, learning how to screen print and produced some fantastic pieces of art work. All of these visits have been possible due to the support of our PSA, so thank you to all of you who work so hard throughout the year to fundraise and make sure our children enjoy these 'extras'. In addition to these events, lots of children across the school have been enjoying Now Press Play experiences, and using our new Virtual Headsets to explore all sorts of different environments and places. Our younger children in Whinchats and Canaries enjoyed their scootability sessions on Tuesday, learning how to scoot safely, and on Wednesday, all the children were able to spend some time with their new teachers, ready for September. We've also started to create our own 'Marcus Rashford' mural, inspired by the reaction to the appalling racist abuse directed towards Rashford and his team mates—your children have shared some incredible messages of love and support.

It was good to see so many parents at our parents evenings on Tuesday—the new system seemed to work well and most of you were able to have a quick meeting with your child's teacher. At the moment, we're not sure if we will return to face to face meetings next year, but we will continue to use this system for booking appointments and, where necessary, for virtual appointments. One of the benefits of this system is that it did keep everyone to time, so no parents were left waiting long after their booked slot.

Next week is busy, so please check the timetable of events later on in the newsletter. On Thursday, our last day, children may wear their own clothes. We have booked some 'fun stuff' for them to enjoy as a 'well done' for coping so brilliantly with the challenges we've all faced this year. One of the surprises (**please keep this a secret!**) is an ice cream van—every child will be able to visit the van and have an ice cream—there is non dairy ice cream for those children with dairy intolerances/allergies. If there is a problem with your child having an ice cream, please could you let us know on **Monday** either via the phone or office email so that we can do a trip to the supermarket and buy an ice lolly—we really don't want anyone to miss out!

It looks like we're going to have amazing weather this weekend—enjoy!

Best wishes from us all,
Maria & all the team.



COVID Update

Late yesterday, the DfE published further guidance for schools regarding Step 4 of the COVID roadmap, giving us little time to fully consider the implications.

From Monday, we will continue with the measures which have been in place this year:

- Please continue to wear masks when on school site and maintain your distance from others
- Please do not visit the school unless you have an appointment—please phone through requests for staff
- The one way system will continue to operate as will the 'kiss and go' approach to drop off in the mornings
- Staggered timings will continue—please follow these
- Please do not gather in large groups outside the school entrances/exits
- We will continue to keep classes separate

We would like to return to 'normal' in September, however, we need to be realistic and accept that, based on the current situation and appreciating that cases will rise once Step 4 is implemented, it is likely that there will have to be continued measures to keep people safe. I will spend time on this towards the end of the summer holidays when we have a picture of what the wider situation is like, but I am expecting that we will continue to operate the one way system, restrict numbers of parents on site/face to face meetings, and social distancing/mask wearing. I will write to you early in September with full details.

From Monday:

- If there is a positive case in school, children will no longer be asked to isolate straightaway; decisions regarding isolation will sit with the NHS Track and Trace system—the school will no longer have a track and trace responsibility
- If a pupil tests positive, parents will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and asked about their child's close contacts
- People, which may include classmates, who need to isolate will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace.
- Anyone who tests positive will still need to isolate—you must inform the school if your child tests positive and you must keep them away from school
- Please continue to keep children at home and arrange a PCR test if they shown any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID, and any of the lesser symptoms
- Schools may be contacted by NHS Track and Trace to help with identifying/contacting close contacts—we may be required to share your contact details in this situation.
- From 16th August, children will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Track and Trace; between Monday and 16th August, however, self isolation rules for children continue.
- We will upload some documents onto the school website which give further information regarding contact tracing <https://www.stjamesvalower.org.uk/information/covid-19>

If in doubt, contact us and we will try and help or contact the NHS directly.

Please remember that, if we have positive cases next week, it is likely that some people will have to isolate during the first weeks of their summer holiday, so please, let's make sure we are not the reason for causing anyone a disrupted start to their holiday!

Next week

Monday	Y6 Leaver's Trip Y4 Bend the Rules Day
Tuesday	Bend the Rules Day Y4 Class Trip
Wednesday	2.00 Leaver's Service—due to COVID, only families of leavers will be able to attend this year
Thursday	Own Clothes Day Children's special surprise afternoon School finishes at usual time

As the end of the school year approaches some families like to buy gifts for school. There is no obligation, but if you would like to buy a book for school we have collated a list of books that we are in need of. These will greatly enhance our class book corners and library. Please just click on the link below and browse our virtual bookshelf!

Many thanks

<https://amzn.eu/e8tgC5X>

Caterlink – Refunds

If your child is in Year 6 or is leaving St James' at the end of term, you may have credit on your Caterlink account, please log in online and check your child's balance. If you require a refund, please speak to Dawn in the school office who will provide you with details as to submit a refund claim.

Change to Menu – Thursday 22nd July 2021

There will be a change to the Caterlink Menu on Thursday 22nd July. Instead of Week 3 option of Cottage pie or Red Pepper Frittata the menu will change to a choice of Fish Fingers and Chips or Mexican Roll with chocolate cake.

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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

For updates on orders,
please email **tracking@mapac.net**

If for any reason you are unhappy with your order,
please email **customerservice@mapac.net**





The PSA Presents....

Bend the Rules Day

TUESDAY 20th July 2021 (Y4 only Monday 19th due to class trip)

Listed below are some rules which can be bent/broken for one day only. Each rule costs 50p to break, and there is no limit to how many rules can be broken.

If your child would like to bend a rule(s), please tick the relevant box and bring this form into school on the day. Please see payment details below.

RULE	COST	TICK IF WISH TO BEND THE RULE
Wear trainers/sports top	50p	
Wear pyjamas	50p	
Have 15 mins extra playtime	50p	
Change your name for the day	50p	
Call adults by their first name	50p	
Wear crazy hairstyles	50p	
Wear nail varnish	50p	
Bring a 'naughty' snack in for break time	50p	
Wear sunglasses	50p	
Bring in squash in water bottle (not fizzy)	50p	
Name of child		
Total cost		

Please tick method of payment:

☐ **Cash in named envelope**

☐ **Bank transfer:** Sort code: 60-02-13 Acc code: 08003254 Acc name: St James School Parents Assoc

☐ **PayPal:** stjamesprimarypsa@gmail.com please make sure you select 'pay friends and family' rather than 'pay for a good or service'. (please note - this email address is not manned for communications)

Please put your surname followed by 'rules' as a reference for your payment.



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Bedford Borough
Parent Carer
FORUM

Holiday Activities and **FOOD** Programme

An exciting range of summer holiday child care activities **for children eligible for income related free school meals** and dedicated sessions **for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities.**

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



Visit the Bedford Local Offer website for more information:
 <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/HAFSummer21>

You are all one in
CHRIST JESUS

Galatians 3:28b

I am sure that, like me, you will have been appalled by the news that there has been racist abuse directed towards members of the England football team. It's a sad way to finish what was an amazing football tournament, but an awful reminder of just how much hatred and bigotry still exists in our country, and how we must stand together to confront and challenge it. Too many groups of people and communi-

ties are targeted —race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, relationship, religion or belief and so on

Christians look to the Bible to learn how to love and serve everyone. We are told that all are created equal and all are children of God, and can receive the full inheritance of heaven. Jesus gave Christians a very simple command: love one another. Our school ethos is built around that fundamental value—love. In a week where I have been sickened at some views expressed, I am inspired and comforted by the outpouring of love, support and compassion expressed by others, especially your children.

LOVE
 each other as I have loved
 YOU.



- John 15:12, NIV