



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

10th September, 2021

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

What a wonderful week we've had! It's been lovely to welcome all the children back to school and we have so enjoyed getting back to our normal routines—having assembly together as a school family has been a particular treat!

We do still need to be cautious, however, and stay alert to the possibility of COVID transmission. To this end, we're still asking children to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Bedford Borough have also provided us with CO2 monitors for each classroom, which allows us to monitor air quality within the classrooms, and increase ventilation (ie open windows) where necessary.

Thank you to all of you who continue to wear your face coverings whilst on the school site; whilst not a legal requirement, doing so just adds an extra layer of protection for us all and may help to limit any transmission—it certainly can't do any harm, can it? We will continue using the one way system in the mornings and at pick up; if you visit the office at these times, please exit the school via the pedestrian gate rather than coming back down the drive, thank you.

Please remember to keep children at home if they are showing any of the 3 main symptoms or any of the lesser symptoms, or are in any way unwell. It is likely that we will see cases of other types of infectious illnesses increase over the next few months, such as the winter vomiting bug, so we need to be alert to any early signs of this so we can avoid outbreaks. If we have any concerns regarding your child's health, even if we're not sure, we will isolate them from other children, and contact you to come and collect them from school.

The local public health team have set thresholds for determining what is meant by an outbreak, and these are quite low. If an outbreak is determined, then we have a plan which outlines the actions we will take. Essentially, we will have to return to the restrictions we had in place last year—separate class bubbles, limits to parents and visitors coming into school, the return of face coverings etc. None of us want to return to this so please work with us to keep potential transmission to a minimum. Thank you!

Sadly, Mrs Doughty remains unwell, and is likely to be away from school for some time. We have secured the services of Mr Chris Craigen to work in our Robins class. Chris is an experienced teacher who has spent the last few years working in British schools in Malaysia. He has been in school today getting to grips with the way we work here, and will be here on Monday to welcome our new Robins on their first day of school. We've also welcomed other new staff this week—Mrs Alyssa DeLuca is our Year 4 teacher working alongside Mrs Corby, and Mrs Kate Spratt is our new LSA, also working in Year 4. I know you will all welcome our new colleagues and will give them your support and encouragement as they settle into our school family.

I have included some dates for your diaries for the next few weeks, and in next week's newsletter will include all the planned dates for the year ahead. Curriculum News Information for classes will be sent home on Monday—on PE days, children should continue to wear their PE kit into school. Please ensure, however, that your child is wearing the correct PE kit (ie royal blue t-shirt), and appropriate trainers.

As is so often the case, the sun returns when children return to school! I hope we can all enjoy some sunshine/warmth over the weekend—rest well and we'll see you all back on Monday,

Best wishes,

Maria & all the St James' team



Our lovely R has had a haircut....and has donated her long hair to the Little Princess Trust, who 'help poorly children have hair'. How incredibly kind and thoughtful is that? We are so proud of R for showing such an incredible act of kindness and reflecting the values we hold so dear at St James'.

[Little Princess Trust \(littleprincesses.org.uk\)](http://littleprincesses.org.uk) collects donated hair in order to make real hair wigs for children who lose their hair due to treatment, such as chemotherapy. If you'd like to donate to this charity or find out more, do visit their website.

Caterlink – Online Payments

Caterlink have made adjustments to their on-line payment system. Previously the minimum payment a parent could make was £10.00. Caterlink are pleased to inform you that this has now been reduced to £2.50. This will allow parents to now make single meal payments especially for one off meal and occasions like Christmas.

Please ensure your child's Caterlink always remains in credit.

AUTUMN/WINTER MENU					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK ONE 6 Sep 27 Sep 18 Oct 15 Nov 6 Dec 10 Jan 31 Jan	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Beef Burger with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread
	Option 2	Vegetable Wraps with 50/50 Rice	Devil's Kitchen Sausage Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread
	Vegetables	Green Beans Carrots	Coleslaw Sweetcorn	Cauliflower Broccoli	Roasted Mixed Vegetables
	Dessert	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Mandarin Jelly Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Apple, Cheese & Biscuits Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit
WEEK TWO 13 Sep 4 Oct 1 Nov 22 Nov 13 Dec 17 Jan 7 Feb	Option 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes	Beef Pasta Bake	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Sweet & Sour Chicken with 50/50 Rice
	Option 2	Vegetable Stew with Couscous	Vegetable Curry with Rice	Roasted Quorn with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Mexican Bean Roll with Roasted New Potatoes
	Vegetables	Peppers Garden Peas	Green Beans Cauliflower	Cabbage Carrots	Sweetcorn Broccoli
	Dessert	Pear Crumble with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Shortbread Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Peach Upside Down Cake Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit
WEEK THREE 20 Sep 11 Oct 8 Nov 29 Nov 3 Jan 24 Jan 14 Feb	Option 1	Vegetarian Tortilla Stack with Rice	Sausage Roll with Wedges	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Broccoli Pasta Bake
	Option 2	Devil's Kitchen Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Vegetarian Lasagne	Mixed Vegetable Loaf with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Wholemeal Vegetable Pasta Bake
	Vegetables	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Garden Peas Carrots	Carrot & Swede Mash	Green Beans Cauliflower
	Dessert	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berries Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Fruit & Yoghurt Station	Apple Sponge & Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit

- Added Plant Power
- Vegan
- Wholemeal
- Oily Fish

Available Daily

- Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
- Bread freshly baked on site daily
- Daily salad selection

ALLERGY INFORMATION

If your child has an allergy or intolerance, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross-contamination.

The menu is also available on our website: [St James' CE VA Primary School - Dinner Menu \(stjamesvalower.org.uk\)](http://stjamesvalower.org.uk)

Meet the Teacher—Wednesday, 15th September

This is an opportunity for parents and teachers to have a short 'meeting' to say hello, put faces to names and outline any key information for the year ahead. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions about class routines but is not appropriate for parents to have detailed discussions regarding specific needs for their child—if you need this, you should book an appointment via the school office. Because of COVID and the fact that we're not yet clear about how the release of restrictions will impact staff and parents, these meetings will be conducted by Zoom and links will be sent home to you early next week. We realise this is not ideal, but we think it would be foolish to have classrooms full of adults at this stage. We are also staggering the start times for these sessions so that those of you who have more than one child in school can attend all the sessions you need:

Year 1	3.50—4.10
Year 2	4.00—4.20
Year 3	4.10—4.30
Year 4	4.20—4.40
Year 5	4.30—4.50
Year 6	4.40—5.00

Upcoming Dates

Weds 22nd Sept 5.00 Phonics Information session for parents - all parents are able to attend but is probably most suitable for parents in Robins, Year 1 and Year 2

Weds 6th Oct Individual School photos
2.00 Harvest Service—parents will be able to log in remotely to share in this service

Weds 13th Oct 5.30 KS2 SATs Information session for parents—all parents are able to attend but is most suitable for parents of Year 6 children

Fri 22nd Oct 3.00 Book Blink—an opportunity for parents to come into class for children to share their books with them (this is COVID dependant and may be cancelled/postponed)

25th-29th October HALF TERM

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

QUIZ

Saturday 16th October 2021, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Zoom Quiz

Suitable for all the family

Help raise some funds for the upkeep of our local church in a fun way - please join us!

Free entry - but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/de1ce53d>

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

Family Support Co-ordinator



Hello! My name is Donna Gower and I am the Family Support Co-ordinator in school.

My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour, mental health and wellbeing.

I am also here as someone to talk to if you need it!
I can meet with you in school or at home at a time to suit yourself.

Advice and support is confidential although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

I may not have all the answers, but hopefully I can help you to work out how to find them!

Support for pupils includes:

- guidance and coping strategies to help with times of change and stress
- promoting self-esteem and confidence
- promoting positive behaviour and positive attitudes to learning
- providing one-to-one targeted support
- Run wellbeing groups and Lego Therapy groups (Brick Club)

Support for families includes:

- providing information and signposting to services who can provide further support
- liaising with a range of external services such as housing and Social Care
- assistance in completing paperwork and forms e.g. housing, special educational needs, school places and benefits
- attendance and support at school and other agency meetings
- families who require food bank vouchers
- family stresses
- Bereavement
- Changes in circumstances
- families in crisis
- practical advice and support in promoting positive behaviour at home
- guidance with career and personal development and access to training and workshops in school and other agencies

I can be contacted via telephone: 07984 551188 or via the school office.

Email: familysupport@stjamesvaschool.co.uk

Information Sheet

Transfer to Secondary School 2022

This leaflet for parents/carers of children starting secondary school (Year 7) in September 2022 explains how to apply for a secondary school place for a child born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

All the information you need to apply for a secondary school place is available on our website www.bedford.gov.uk/secondarytransfer. It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, School Transfer 2022, which explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer. An application form can be downloaded from our website or requested by contacting the School Admissions Service: email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk tel: 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority you must apply to your home Local Authority. Contact information is overleaf.

Application deadline 31 October 2021

Secondary School Admissions Timetable

September 2021

We will send you information on secondary school transfers through your child's current school.



September/October 2021

Schools will hold their open days / evenings. Details are overleaf.



31 October 2021

Last day for applications.



1 March 2022

If you have applied [online](#) you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied [online](#) we will post a letter to you on this day.

Please note that staff at St James' are unable to advise/recommend schools for your child—you should visit all schools in which you are interested and make informed decisions based upon these visits.

Schedule of Open Days/Evenings

Bedford Borough schools with a Year 7 Transfer to Secondary intake

School Name	Date and time of Open Day/Evening
Bedford Academy	6 October 2021 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Bedford Free School	16 September 2021 5:00pm - 8:30pm
Biddenham International School & Sports College	4 October 2021 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Castle Newnham School	12 October 2021 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Daubeney Academy	13 October 2021 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Goldington Academy	14 October 2021 6:30pm - 9:00pm
Kempston Challenger Academy	30 September 2021 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Lincroft Academy	30 September 2021 (For full details please refer to school's website)
Mark Rutherford School	7 October 2021 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Sharnbrook Academy	7 October 2021 5:45pm - 8:00pm
St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School	5 October 2021 6:00pm - 8:30pm (Headteacher talks at 6:00pm and 7:00pm)
Wixams Academy	20 October 2021 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Central Bedfordshire Secondary School

This information is provided for those parents / carers whose catchment area secondary school is within the Central Bedfordshire Council area. Please visit the Central Bedfordshire website, or contact the School Admissions Service, for information about open evenings for other schools in the Central Bedfordshire Council area.

School Name	Date and time of Open Day
Sandy Secondary	2 October 2021 9:30am - 2:00pm

Contact Us

School Admissions Service General Enquiries - 01234 718120
Email: admissions@bedford.gov.uk

Contact details for school admission teams in neighbouring authorities	
Cambridgeshire Tel: 0345 045 1370 admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Central Bedfordshire Tel: 0300 300 8037 admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Milton Keynes Tel: (01908) 253338 secondaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk	Northamptonshire Tel: 0300 128 3000 (North Northants) Tel: 0300 128 7000 (West Northants) admissions.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk