



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

17th September, 2021

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On Monday, we welcomed our latest flock of Robins who started school—they have made an excellent start to their primary school careers and we have been so impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm—they're going to achieve great things! I hope that you, as their parents and carers, are also beginning to settle in and feel part of the St James' family; please remember to always speak with us if there is anything you're not sure of or if you think we can help you in any way.

Many of you have asked after Mrs Doughty—she continues to be signed off by her GP, and I really don't know when she might be back; obviously I can not disclose the nature of her sickness, but I am due to see her over the weekend and I will, of course, pass on all your good wishes. Mr Craigen has stepped in to her shoes brilliantly—the week has been a bit of a whirlwind for him, but he's coped well and has made sure the children have had a great week. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding with the situation.

Elsewhere around the school, children are working hard and showing great commitment to and enthusiasm for their learning. Thank you to those of you who came along to the Meet The Teacher sessions, which I hope you found helpful in terms of outlining what to expect this year. We are all still getting used to life without bubbles; I have been struck by how hard I have found it to remember what our routines looked like before the pandemic hit, but I'm getting there along with everyone else!

Some of you have asked about extra-curricular activities. Our intention is to re-introduce clubs at a steady, cautious pace so that we can monitor the impact they may have on COVID cases; after school sports clubs will return, but not just yet. At the moment, we have a gym club before school (which is now full), and children may also access instrument lessons during the school day, currently we have piano, recorders, guitar and drums. If your child is interested, please contact the school office and Dawn will put you in touch with the music teachers. Please be aware that access to these lessons is limited and tend not to be available until children are in Year 2 and that numbers are managed by the individual teachers rather than the school.

Next Wednesday, at 5.00, we will be holding a phonics information session for parents—this is particularly aimed at parents of children at the early stages of reading (ie Years R and 1), but is open to all of you. We will share with you details of the programme we use, share some of the resources and books, and also give some tips about how you can help your child at home. It will be held Face to Face in the Hall, which is a large enough room to allow for good ventilation. We ask that you all wear face coverings whilst inside the school building.

There's a really lovely atmosphere around school at the moment, lots of people working hard—rest well over the weekend and we'll see you all on Monday,

Best wishes from Maria & all at St James'



Congratulations to D and A who took part in the Jiu Jitsu British Open Championship last weekend. D won the Gold in her category and A won the Bronze medal in hers. This is an outstanding achievement and we are all incredibly proud of the girls—well done!



Do excuse my language, but I'm going to talk Traffic! I know it's bad at the moment—those of you who have to get to Oakley have had an awful week! The combination of the roadworks around Manton Lane and the A6, along with the closure of the road between Oakley and Bromham have created nothing short of utter chaos. And we are seeing the impact of this here—Main Road has been very busy this week. And it's about to get worse.

There will be traffic lights on Main Road between the school drive and the war memorial at some point—originally it was advertised as being next week, however this morning I've been reliably informed that the date has changed to 12th October (thanks Fiona!) Whenever it is, please do not try to park between the traffic lights—if Main Road gets blocked up there will be utter chaos!

Please, please, please keep your cars away from the road in front of the school—park and stride, and even better just walk, cycle, scoot from home. Make it your new school year resolution to keep your car away from school.

If you must drive to school:

- Do not stop anywhere near the end of the school drive, ever, or on the corner of Nodders Way—doing so places pedestrians at risk
- Do not leave your engines running—the fumes from your cars will harm children
- Do not use the pub car park
- To help avoid congestion, use your common sense and don't double park
- Don't put your foot down as you leave the school site—Main Road and Gold Lane are narrow roads with lots of people trying to cross
- Please be patient with each other—we haven't closed the roads and caused the chaos!

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—THIS MEANS USING OUR CARS WITH MORE CARE AND ATTENTION THAN WE MIGHT USUALLY DO

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 29th Sept 10.30 School Nurse Height & Weight checks for Y6

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



Pupil Governor Elections

We are very excited to inform you that we will be holding an **election** to choose our new Pupil Governors, on Thursday 30th October. Pupil Governors work across the school to help the adults make our school even better; they also think about our values and think of ways in which we can help people beyond our school walls. They have a big responsibility so need to have organisational skills as well as be willing to give up their time.

2 children will be elected from each class in Years 1 to 6. If your child would like to stand for election, they will need to prepare a speech about why they would be a good Pupil Governor and reasons to convince their classmates to vote for them. They could even prepare posters to be displayed in election week in their own classroom! Candidates will need to be prepared to share their speech with their classmates in the week commencing Monday 27th September, as voting will take place on Thursday 30th October.

Good luck to all our potential candidates!

Mrs De Luca

Movement around the school site

Thank you to everyone who wears a face covering when on the school site. Please remember we have a one way system still in operation—please make sure that anyone new to picking up/dropping off your child is aware of this. Please do not bring bikes and scooters into the school—these need to be left outside school. Dogs should not be brought into school; if you leave your dog tied up outside school, please make sure they are away from the main entrances/exits—many children are nervous of dogs, even the very calm, placid ones. Thank you for helping to keep us all safe.

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](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions) you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied [online](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions) 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.



The First Steps to Supporting a Child with Autism Spectrum Conditions

A workshop for parents/ carers

This will be a relaxed session, specifically for parents and carers of children who are undiagnosed, newly diagnosed, or going through the diagnostic process. The session will consist of a 60 minute talk on Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC), followed by an opportunity to hear from and share with other parents and carers, and gain information about local support and services.

Day session:
Date: Tuesday 19th October 2021
Time: Log in from 9:45am for a prompt 10am start, till 12:30pm

Evening session:
Date: Tuesday 16th November 2021
Time: Log in from 6:15pm for a prompt 6:30pm start, till 9pm

To Book:
✉ enquiries@autismbeds.org
☎ 01234 214871

£5

zoom Online training The training will be online, using Zoom. Once booked on, we will provide you with the details to join.



Anxiety, Behaviour & Autism

A workshop for parents/ carers

Thursday 30th September 2021 | 10am - 1pm
£15 AB Members / £20 Non-AB Members

This workshop provides you with the opportunity to learn more about:

- The difficulties autism may cause in managing behaviours
- How to adapt environments & practices to meet the needs of autistic individuals
- Strategies for managing difficult situations

Contact Autism Bedfordshire to book:
☎ 01234 214871
✉ enquiries@autismbeds.org

Autism BEDFORDSHIRE

LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE

zoom Online training The training will be online, using Zoom. Once booked on, we will provide you with the details to join.

COVID

Please remember that if your child shows any COVID symptoms you must keep them at home and arrange for them to take a PCR test. Please also be aware of the minor symptoms. If you are in any doubt, please keep your child away from school. If your child displays any of the listed COVID symptoms, we will isolate them from others and contact you to arrange collection. Thankyou.

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



Bedford Borough
Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub

A collection of resources regarding the emotional wellbeing of children & young people and those supporting them in Bedford Borough.

To find out more, please visit:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/mentalhealthhub>



Calling on all 16-17 year olds.



You can now get your **Pfizer** vaccine at one of our drop-in vaccination clinics:

- Bedford Borough
- Central Bedfordshire
- Milton Keynes
- Luton

No need to make an appointment, just walk in!

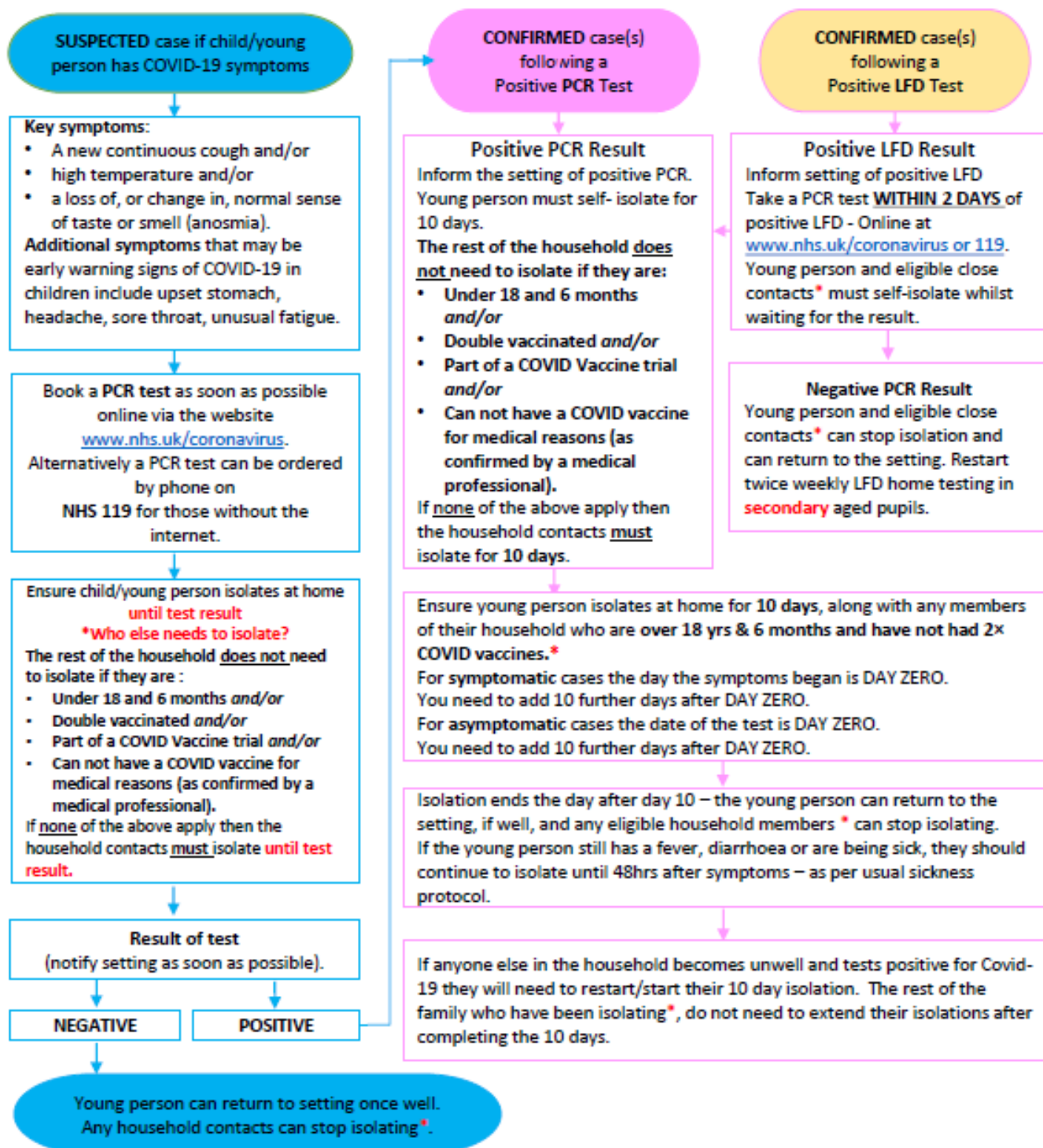
These sessions are for one jab of the Pfizer vaccination. Booking cannot be done online.

For details of the sites giving the vaccination to 16-17 years olds visit: www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in



COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers in Bedford Borough Education Settings From 23rd August 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a young person please follow the flow chart below.



- We continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear masks in crowded, public indoor areas.
- Masks are to be worn on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available after 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms. Individuals may choose to take a LFD test after the isolation period.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms and should not be used if you have any symptoms.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have been identified as an eligible close contact* of a positive case, a negative LFD test does not mean you can stop isolating.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test.