



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 26th November, 2021

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

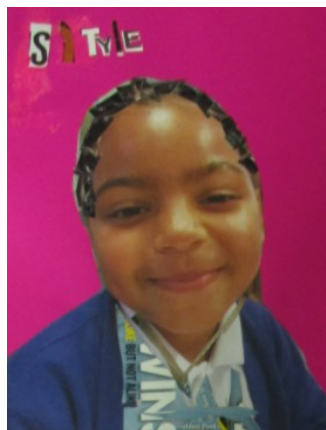
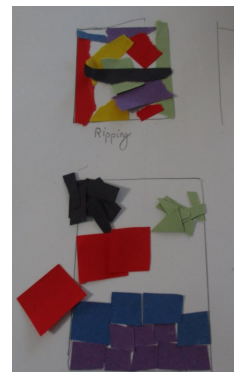
Another busy week began with our termly Art Day, with a focus on collage skills. Children across the school developed their skills of cutting, tearing, layering, working with different materials and media, and created art work which reflect why it is 'Good to Be Me'. There is a central display currently being developed in the Hall and once complete, we will share this on Twitter so that you can see the progress from Robins all the way to Year 6. In the meantime, there are a few photos of the day below.

Mr Munday attended a special Coding training session this week—we have been lucky enough to receive some Lego robotic kits, along with the training, completely free of charge. In the near future, he will be able to teach the children in his class and in Year 6 specific coding skills linked to these kits—a great opportunity for the children to develop their technological and computing skills.

Sunday sees the start of Advent, a time of preparation and reflection, as we get ready for Christmas. During Advent, we will use a Jesse Tree as part of our preparations, and remember the people and events who paved the way for the birth of Jesus. On Friday, we will spend the morning decorating the school for Christmas; usually, we invite our families to join in with this, but because we need to continue to be careful we won't be able to do this, I'm afraid. The children and staff will miss you all, but we'll make sure we still have a good time! Because of the continuing COVID situation, we are in the process of re-planning our Christmas Show and Service—we will confirm details for you next week. The Santa Challenge also starts next week; please see the letter later on in this newsletter. With 3 weeks until the end of term, Christmas is officially go! Please continue to take sensible and cautious steps with regards to COVID, however. Currently, we have sporadic cases in school, with no outbreaks, and this is all down to your support and wise decisions—if this continues, we will all be able to enjoy this Christmas with our families and loved ones.

With all good wishes for a restful and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time: this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.



CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.



SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: www.helpnetflix.com | www.aboutnetflix.com | www.cbsm.org.uk



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.11.2021

Upcoming Dates

Mon 29th Nov	Santa Challenge begins
Thurs 2nd Dec	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics
Fri 3rd Dec	Christmas decoration morning—sadly this will not include parents this year 2.00 Y1 Class Assembly—via Zoom
Tues 7th Dec	Vision Screening Robins Class (School Nursing Team) 2.30 Y2 rescheduled assembly & concert
Fri 10th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Flu immunisations
Mon 13th Dec	Santa Dash
Tues 14th Dec	Christmas Lunch
Weds 15th Dec	PSA Christmas Bazaar
Fri 17th Dec	End of term 1.30pm

All dates and activities are subject to change due to the emerging COVID situation—we will always tell you as soon as we know/have made decisions.



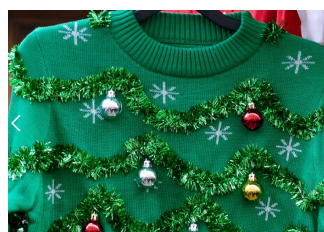
Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Friday 10th December**.

It is a fundraising event held each year. Children (and adults!)

may wear a Christmas jumper and donate to Save the Children.

As much as possible, we'd love to see home-made, reused or recycled jumpers rather than buying new ones.

We cannot wait to see your chosen jumpers on 10th December!



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.

We will provide remote learning activities for children who are at home due to COVID and are well enough to learn. There will also be times when, due to teacher illness and absence, we will not be able to monitor or provide remote learning or run Teams sessions. Please be aware that teachers do not have the capacity to provide remote learning for any other circumstances, including leaves of absence.

Thank you so much for all of you who exercise caution and for keeping your children at home if they are showing any symptoms of COVID, your actions are really helping to keep down transmission of the virus .

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

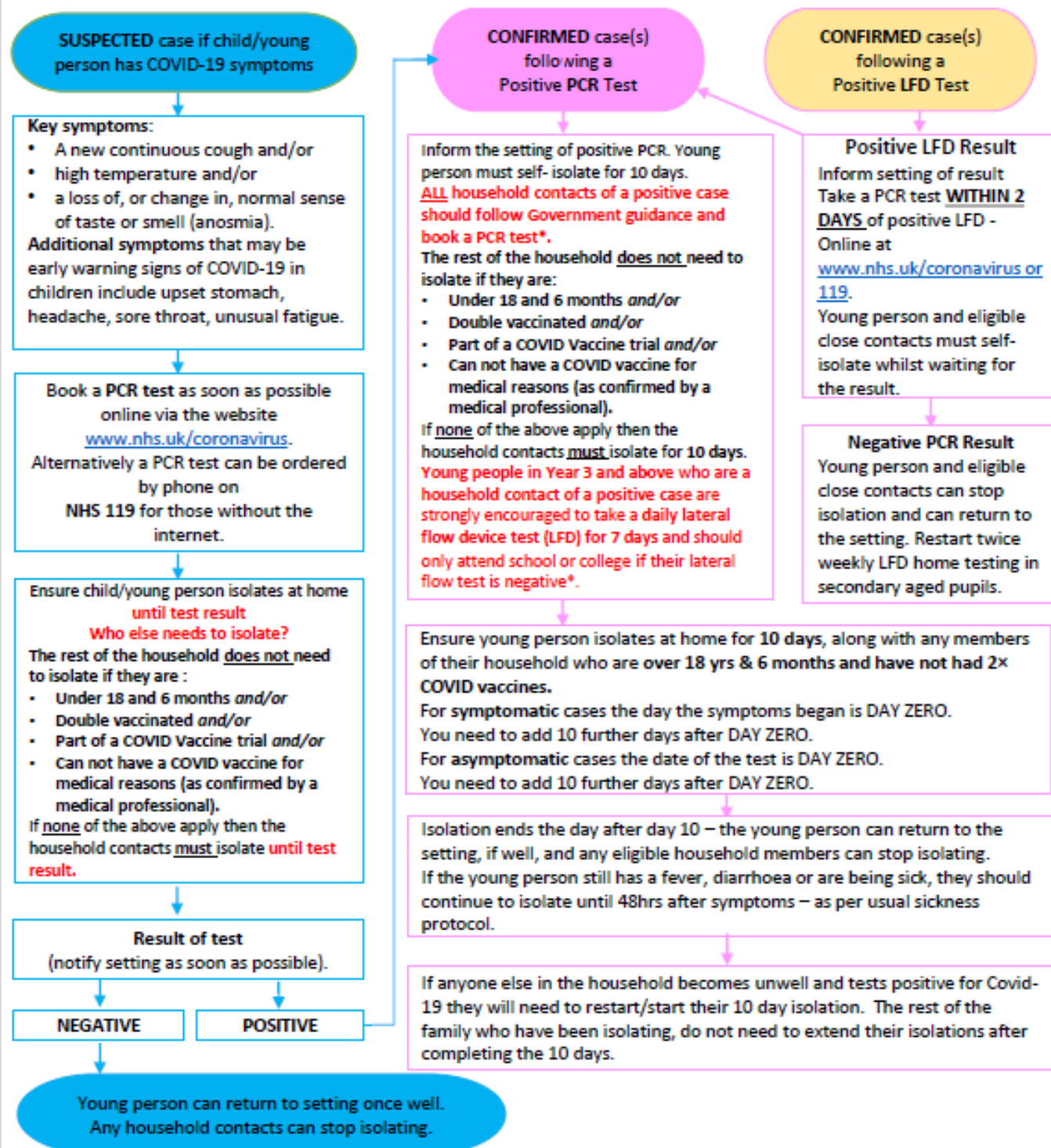
Staffing Update

This week, we have welcomed Miss Madison Bamber to the staff team. She will be working with us as an Associate Teacher and will cover teachers when they are out of the classroom for their planning and preparation time. Madison has experience of working in this role and will bring a great deal of support to the school. In the next few weeks, she will be working alongside teachers and classes as part of her induction. I know you will help her feel welcome and settle into our school family.

I am in contact with Mrs Rai to arrange a day when she can be released from her current school to come and spend time with Robins before she starts her new role with us in January.

COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers in Bedford Borough Education Settings From 1st Nov 2021

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



- Mask should be worn by young people in Year 7 and above (Year 5 and above in Middle Schools) in all communal areas outside the classroom, and on school and public transport.
- *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.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms and should not be used if you have any symptoms.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.



Pupil Governor Update

On Wednesday, 6 Pupil Governors took part in a training session run by Bedford Borough for Pupil Voice Week. The children thought carefully about equality and diversity, and came up with the following definition:

Equality: everybody has the same right, is treated equally and all the same.

Diversity: how we are all different in many ways.

The Pupil Governors shared lots of different ideas about these important words, and discussed how we can make sure that every child has a voice and is listened to in our school.

Our Pupil Governor reviews of the training:

'The adults were asking us how to solve different problems as the Pupil Governors. I thought it was really good and will help me in my role as a pupil governor'.

'The advice and information that they gave us was really helpful, and really got us thinking'.

'We've definitely stepped up our roles of Pupil Governors following this, and we made sure we shared our training with the other Pupil Governors. We now have more experience of what to do, and how to do it well when solving problems'.

'Some tips we learned were; don't talk over other people, and listen to what all children are saying, no matter age, what they look like, or who they are'.

Year 2 Class Assembly

Year 2 will be having a concert on **Tuesday 7th December at 2.30pm** to share the songs they have been learning with Mrs Hynes. As the class assembly was cancelled, the children will also share what they have been learning in class. It will be via zoom and the link will be sent as a Marvellous Me message.

MERRI CHRISTMAS TREES

2021 FUNDRAISER

Do you want to experience being able to choose your Christmas tree direct from the field and raise funds for **St James Primary** at the same time? If your answer is yes, then visit MERRI Christmas trees based in Oakley, Bedfordshire.

When you purchase your MERRI Christmas tree simply mention that **St James Primary** told you about the fundraiser and MERRI Christmas Trees will gift £5 of your purchase to your chosen charity.

There are three possible ways to buy a MERRI Christmas Tree;

1. TAG your tree for collection or delivery* at a later date
2. CHOOSE your tree then have it cut down to take home that day
3. PRE-ORDER your tree for collection or delivery* at a later date.

Tree tagging at MERRI Christmas Trees starts at the end of October.

To book a visit to the farm, please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/merri

Then come January why not spare your car from needles and have your tree collected and raise funds for Sue Ryder, Moggerhanger too.

Tree delivery (by MERRI) and Treecycle (by Sue Ryder) available for following postcodes; MK40, MK41, MK43, MK44 and MK45 (plus NN10 for delivery)



MERRI Christmas Trees

Queens Close, Oakley
Bedfordshire
MK43 7TB
(opposite Oakley Post Office)



www.merriflowers.co.uk

merrichristmastrees@yahoo.com

To book a visit to the farm, please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/merri

mapac:  

BLACK FRIDAY 2021
15% OFF EVERYTHING!
Online orders only

26th-29th November 2021!



POLOS AND SWEATS
KNITWEAR BAGS

PE KIT

OUTERWEAR

...AND MUCH MORE!

ENTER CODE: BF2021
AT CHECKOUT

SHOP NOW!



This weekend only.

www.mapac.com/education/parents

www.mapac.com/education/parents

* Offer available from Friday 26th - Monday 29th November 2021.
Please note: this offer applies to parent online orders only and is not available in our shop.

St James' PSA News



Thank you

THANK YOU to everyone who checked out the auction, passed it onto friends/family, local businesses and to those that won! You all helped raise over £200 to put towards extra resources for the school. Once again, a huge thank you to Julayne for organising it all.

And a massive THANK YOU to our outgoing PSA co-chairs Eleanor and Caz, and our Communications Manager Hazel. Thank you so much for all your hard work over the last few years, you've been amazing and made it so much fun! You've been instrumental in getting the PSA in such good shape and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you x

Dates for your diary

- **Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile for Black Friday! - 26th November** Make sure you sign up before you do your online Black Friday and Christmas shopping to help raise money for the school! You can support the school by shopping through Amazon Smile - smile.amazon.co.uk. You can activate this in your app and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchase amount to the school. Search for St James' School Parent Staff Association. Also sign up to EasyFundraising.org www.easyfundraising.org which donates a percentage of your purchases from a huge number of online shops. Search 'St James Lower School PSA - Biddenham'
- **Children's Christmas Cards - ordering deadline 30th November** The free delivery offer has passed but you can still order before the 30th November for delivery straight to your home for £3.50.
- **Merri Christmas Trees - all of November and December** Merri Christmas Trees (Oakley) are donating £5 to the school for every tree bought from them, just nominate St James' Primary when purchasing. You can visit the farm now, tag your favourite tree and arrange delivery/collection nearer to Christmas.
- **Christmas Bazaar Donations Required - 6th December** This will be an opportunity for the children to choose a special gift for you! Please take a look at home for any unwanted small gifts such as unused toiletries, books, chocolates etc that you would like to donate. With nearly 200 children in school, we need many items to make the event a success. Donations can be made via a drop off point which will be on the school drive from 6th December. Alternatively, please pass any donations to Sarah Morton. The Bazaar will be held on 15th December.
- **Christmas Jumper Day - 10th December** We have lots of pre-loved children's Christmas jumpers in our online shop <https://st-james-school-parents-association.sumup.link/products> If you have any jumpers to donate please hand them into the office.
- **Santa Dash - 13th December** Children's sponsored Santa Dash, more info and sponsorship forms to follow.
- **Big PTA Raffle - 13th-18th December** We have signed up for the Big PTA Raffle again to give you the chance to win £5,000! £3 per ticket. <https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/st-james-cofe-va-primary-school-mk40>
- **PSA Meet-up tbc**

Contacts

Chair - **Volunteer Needed!**

Treasurer - Alyson Batty

Secretary - Fiona Mitchell

Fundraising Manager - Julayne Scarlett

Communications Manager - **Volunteer Needed!**

Staff Contact - Sarah Morton

Class Reps - Various parents for each class who relay information about PSA events

Sign up to classlist.com 'St James' CE VA Primary School'

Follow us on facebook 'Friends of St James' Primary School Biddenham'