



Be COVID Aware

Do not come onto school site if you have any Coronavirus symptoms, & get tested. The symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

Newsletter 1st April, 2022

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

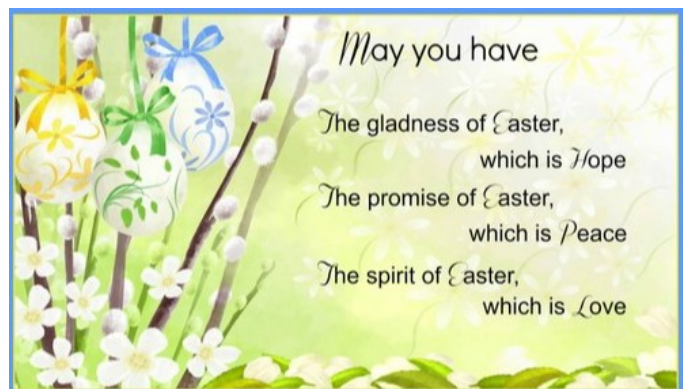
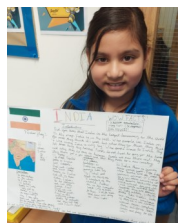
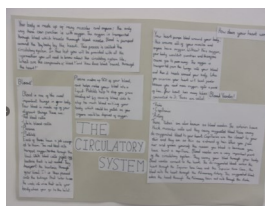
What a weird week—last week we were all in our summer clothes and then this week we're back to winter clothes—I saw a lovely Tweet from the BBC weatherman Tomasz Schafernaker who described a Polish saying describing March as a saucepan: cold to hot and full of everything. How true!

In our last week of term, children have continued to be busy. Canaries have put all their learnt skills in chopping and cutting to great use, creating pasta salads (which looked yummy!). Robins have also been working with food, making their own chocolate crispie nests for Easter. At the start of the week, Robins, Whinchats and Canaries all headed out of school to go on a local walk and learning all about their local area, spotting signs of spring and visiting the church. Thank you so much to all of you who came along and helped us to keep the children safe on their journeys. Green Jays and Sabrewings have completed their units on non-fiction writing, creating reports based on chosen countries studied (Y3) and the circulatory system studied in science (Y6). All children enjoyed the Bunny hop, skip and jump fundraiser for the PSA on Tuesday—thank you for sending in all your bunny totals.

Yesterday, we were so pleased to see some of you back in school sharing our end of term Easter service—it's been a long time! The children spoke knowledgeably about the events of Holy Week, sang beautifully, and offered thoughtful hopes, wishes and prayers for us all to reflect on. Many thanks to Mrs Hawkins and Green Jays for leading and organising us, and thank you to all of you who happily followed the continuing Government advice to wear face coverings in crowded places, we really appreciated your support with this.

We return to school on Tuesday, 19th April—however you spend your Easter break, we offer you all much love and peace, along with our continued thanks for all your support and friendship.

Maria & all the team at St James'



School closes for the Easter break today. Children return to school on Tuesday, 19th April

Academy Update from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

I am aware that, although it is the last day of term, we were due to join the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust (DSAMAT) on 1st April. Unfortunately, the transfer has been delayed because some of the complex legal procedures, mainly to do with land ownership, have not been completed. This is a matter outside the control of the school and is being dealt with by lawyers representing the Diocese, DSAMAT and the Local Authority. Such occurrences are not unusual, especially if such matters have not been looked into for many years. It is hoped that the conversion will now take place on 1st June, but this can only happen when all the legal processes have been resolved and the Secretary of State for Education is content.

The governing body was due to meet during these last few weeks to consider the outcome of the consultation process, for which thanks to those who attended the meeting and/or made written responses. That meeting has been postponed until after the Easter break when we will hopefully have a clearer idea about the timescale. Once the report has been considered, and a final decision taken by the governors, it will appear on the school's website. Can I assure you that all this work that is going on in the background does not impact on the day-to-day education that your child is receiving, and nor does the delay. As I hope we have reassured you, nothing about the school will change in that respect.

I am also conscious that there have been a number of Covid cases in the school since restrictions were lifted. This has happened throughout the national education sector, as was probably to be expected. It is a shame that the government has decided not to continue with free tests for a longer period since this will certainly have an impact on settings like schools. Having said that, can I thank you for your continuing support throughout this term and also publicly thank Maria and her staff for the outstanding way in which they continue to support and encourage the learning of your children, and for keeping them safe at all times.

I hope you all have a restful and happy Easter.

Best wishes

David Fraser

Chair of Governors

Birthdays

To celebrate their birthday, your child is able to wear their own clothes to school for the day; if their birthday happens during a school holiday or weekend, they can wear their own clothes on the nearest school day. Please do not send sweets, cakes or other treats into school to share in class—there are many reasons why we are unable to give these out on your behalf, including dietary requirements/allergies.

Next half term, Premier Education will be hosting extra-curricular clubs at our school for Year 1 to Year 4. These sessions give your child the chance to become more active, learn new skills, gain confidence and have lots of fun whilst in the comfort of their own school.



Your child will have in their bag the clubs that are available. To make a booking just click on the link in the flyer which will take you directly to the booking page on Premier's website. If you have any queries when making your booking, please contact their local office directly on 01908 597940 or email mkoffice@premier-education.com

Gaynor Hawkins





Free

**Learn to Ride
Lose the Stabilisers**

This Easter, get kids riding in a safe, off-road environment, supported by the Bedford Borough Council Sustainable Transport team. Choose a one-hour time slot and location that suits you, then contact sustainable.transport@bedford.gov.uk for further details and to sign up.

Wednesday 6th April at Moor Lane MUGA Moor Lane Recreation Ground, Moor Lane (off Mile Road), Bedford MK42 9UR ///drag.shin.wacky 2-3pm 3-4pm	Sunday 10th April at Sharnbrook Academy Sharnbrook Academy, Odell Road, Sharnbrook, Beds MK44 1JL ///orbited.flooding.sleeper 2-3pm 3-4pm	Wednesday 13th April at Allen Park MUGA Allen Park, Old Ford End Road, Queen's Park, Bedford MK40 4LY ///weedy.forms.hog 2-3pm 3-4pm
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Spotted on one of our walks...yes, that's a snake! We also saw a toad carrying its baby! You wouldn't see that driving around in your car!



Updated Covid Guidance

Updated Guidance (from 1st April) will advise:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

Summer Time!

As the weather changes, please note the following:

- 'summer' uniform may be worn as and when you deem appropriate—summer dresses, smart shorts (not PE shorts)
- Summer shoes—please ensure these are not open toed, for safety reasons
- Sun hats should be brought into school on very hot/sunny days—please put your child's name in these!
- School jumpers should be brought into school throughout (even if they're not worn, 'just in case')
- Light rain jackets, where possible and appropriate
- Sun tan lotion—please apply this before school (use the long lasting variety) - staff will not apply cream to individual children, unless part of an agreed medical care plan (we just can't apply cream to 190 children every day!)
- Holidays—please be aware that regulations do not allow Head Teachers to authorise any absence for the purpose of a family holiday. Depending on a number of factors, you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if you take an unauthorised leave of absence; these fines are applied to each parent and for each. So, example, for two children, both parents will be fined, whether the child lives with them or not., which would lead to 4x £60 fines!



Pupil Governor Report by Wenxi and Mohammad (Chair and Vice Chair of the Pupil Governors)

We have had another busy term! We've been meeting every single week, to discuss ideas from children and adults for how to improve things and make St James' a better place. Our biggest achievement so far was when we raised over £160 for our chosen charity, 'Make a Wish' foundation, by holding a bake sale on the playground after school. Thank you everyone for supporting us with this.

We have been looking closely at our action plan (which was made following suggestions from all the children in the school) and working towards making things on it happen. Some of the actions/goals from these discussions are:

1. We have looked into the wet play resources in our classrooms and tried to find out if we need to replace any. When doing this, we decided that all children must take care of the equipment we already have, and so will be encouraging them to be more careful.
2. We have ordered more litter pickers to be used on the playground and around the school.
3. We are beginning to plan a 'History Day', which will hopefully happen soon.
4. Planning a summer fayre, to be held in school by the Pupil Governors, for the children.

That's it for the end of term update, keep checking the newsletter for more updates in the Summer term.

Lent 2022

Be Forgiving...

Discover Find out about Corrie ten Boom's story of forgiveness.	Reflect What does forgiveness look like in action?
Create Create a story book for younger children that helps teach them about what it means to forgive.	Act Is there someone you would like to say sorry to?



COMMUNITY MINDED THROUGH DRIVE AND ASPIRATION

Join us at our Year 6 into Year 7

OPEN MORNING

Bedford Academy

We are hosting Open Morning tours on Wednesday, 27th April 2022 for our community and potential students. These tours are an ideal opportunity to see our school in action and share our passion for our school.

This event is open by appointment only. Please click the link below to book a tour time on from 9am - 11:15am. Deadline for completion is Friday, 22nd April 2022 at 3pm.

Link available here: <https://forms.office.com/r/pNjL9pqnLZ>

Part of the
HEART
ACADEMIES TRUST

Bedford Academy - Mile Road - Bedford - MK42 9TR
t: 01234 301500 | e: info@bedfordacademy.co.uk
www.bedfordacademy.co.uk
Company Registration Number: 06969741

Sponsored by
HARPUR TRUST

JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR

Easter Camp

Ages 3-14

THE BEARS SPORTY SCHOLARS

Tennis Cricket Go Karts
Nerf Football Easter Hunt Maze, Dance, Baking & More!

Week One: 4th-8th April Week Two: 11th-14th April Week Three: 18th-22nd April 2022

Banbury: Cherry Fields Primary School
Bedford: Great Ouse Primary Academy
Flitwick: Templefield Lower School
Horse & Wildress / Quad Camp: Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes:
1. Kents Hill Park Primary School
2. Loughton Manor Primary School
3. Tickford Park Primary School
4. Willen Primary School

8-5:30pm / 8-4pm / 9-3:30pm / 10-2pm / 10-5:30pm From £18 per day

Activities: Specialising in Tennis, Cricket, and Football plus an introduction to a wide variety of other sports and activities like Go Kart, Zorbs, Nerf, Laser Tag, Throughout the day children can choose their themed activities depending on who is feeling adventurous, or maybe on the creative side! Food options available at most locations

SPORTY SCHOLARS

BOOK NOW: www.sportyscholars.com Tel: 07511194319

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

With 2.5 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by sharing other things, using text, photos, videos, audio, live streaming and more. It's a place where you can connect with friends and family, share your life, and discover new things. But it's also a place where you can be cyberbullied, have your data stolen, or be contacted by strangers. This guide provides advice for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe on Facebook.

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ADDICTIVE NATURE**: Facebook is designed to be addictive, with notifications and the 'like' button encouraging users to spend more time on the platform.
- CYBERBULLYING**: Facebook is a common place for cyberbullying, with users often being targeted by strangers or friends.
- OVERSHARING**: Users often share too much information on Facebook, which can be used by strangers to contact them or steal their identity.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**: Facebook has a large amount of inappropriate content, including hate speech, violence, and sexual content.
- VIDEOS AND STREAMING**: Facebook Live and other streaming features can be used to share inappropriate content.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE**: Ensure your child's Facebook account is set to private.
- ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING**: Encourage your child to only friend people they know and trust.
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE**: Show your child how to use Facebook safely by following the same rules.
- SAVVY SHARING**: Teach your child to think before they share anything online.
- RESPECT BOUNDARIES**: Teach your child to respect the boundaries of others.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**: Teach your child how to block and report users who are being abusive.

Meet Our Expert: **National Online Safety** (NOS) #WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety f/NationalOnlineSafety

[Free Online Safety Guide | Facebook | National Online Safety](#) - What parents need to know about Facebook

Important Info

Event at Cherry Trees Children's Centre coming soon!
There will be no play sessions on Thursday 23rd June, as we are holding our ECP event at Cherry Trees Children's Centre. This will be a fun-filled morning, more details to come shortly.

Midwifery

Our Community Midwifery colleagues offer appointments predominantly for postnatal women across some of our sites. Appointments can be made by calling 01234 755 747 or through the community midwife.

Antenatal Programme

Bumps, Birth & Baby stuff (BBB) is a three week or one full day antenatal programme, with the aim to support expectant parents regarding the birth of their baby, coping for a new born and the impact of having a new baby in the family. This course is for expectant mothers who are around 32 weeks pregnant, with spaces also available for partners. Booking is essential and families must live in Bedford Borough. Please note that bookings open one calendar month before the course starts.

Register with us

Please make sure you are registered with Bedford Borough Children's Centres, which you can do in centre or over the phone 0300 323 0245

Bookable Courses

Please note that the Forest School will only be 3 sessions in May due to Bank Holidays.

Forest School This is an outdoor based course, giving children the chance to explore nature. Daisy Hill Children's Centre MAY 12-13 10.00am - 11.00am 18 months - 5 years MAY 12-13 - £12 booking fee (12 weeks) MAY 12-13 - £12 booking fee (12 weeks) Scan QR code to find out course dates and further info. Please read full T&Cs before booking.	Wiggles and Jiggles This is a music and movement group. There are lots of action songs, rhymes, parachute fun and a chance to explore instruments. (6 weeks) Peter Pan Children's Centre MAY 12-13 11.00am - 12.00pm 18 months - 5 years MAY 12-13 - £12 booking fee (12 weeks) Scan QR code to find out course dates and further info.	Messy Explorers This is a course for babies who are now sitting and ready to explore textures. This is not suitable for children with food allergies. (6 weeks) Queens Park Neighborhood Centre MAY 12-13 1.00pm - 2.00pm 18 months - 5 years MAY 12-13 - £12 booking fee (12 weeks) Scan QR code to find out course dates and further info.	Baby Massage Baby massage is a 6-week course for babies aged 12 weeks - 18 months. Learn massage techniques to support relaxation and relief from colic and constipation. Princess Children's Centre MAY 12-13 10.00am - 11.00am 6 weeks - 6 months MAY 12-13 - £12 booking fee (12 weeks) Scan QR code to find out course dates and further info.
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For more information, please get in touch via:
0300 323 0245
admin@ecpbedford.org
Bedford Borough Children's Centres



Pub Car Park

From Monday 9th May the pub car park will be closed as it is being resurfaced. The work will take approximately 6 – 8 weeks. Please park elsewhere being considerate to our neighbours.

Riverside Tennis Club
www.riversidetennisbedford.co.uk

Tennis Camps 2022
February Half Term
Easter Holidays
May Half Term

MINI RED
MINI ORANGE
CHALLENGER TENNIS
MINI GREEN

Riverside Tennis – Easter Holiday Camps

[Riverside Tennis Club](#) in Bedford will be running their Holiday Camps during the Easter Holidays and May Half Term for children aged 4 to 18 years.

Our highly experienced LTA Accredited, First Aid & Safeguarding trained and DBS checked tennis coaches will be running the coaching sessions and there are currently places available for the Easter Holidays

For **Easter week 1**, we will be running Mini Tennis groups for children aged 4 to 10 years, from 9am to 12pm every day with early drop off and late pick up available.

For **Easter week 2**, we will be running our Mini Reds (4 to 8 years) for mornings only and for our older players age 8 to 18 years, we offer mornings or full days until 3pm.

All children will have access to our Clubhouse during breaks and parents will be able to pre-order lunch if required from our onsite Café.

Parents are welcome to enjoy refreshments and use the free Wi-Fi in our Café while their children participate in the camps but there is no requirement for parents to stay onsite.

Please click [here](#) to see the full Riverside Tennis Holiday Camp Programme. Any queries, please contact, Martha Harbershon, Coaching Director, at coaching@riversidetennisbedford.co.uk.

Please do follow us on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) for regular Riverside updates and news.

Interested in learning a Musical Instrument?
During school hours, evenings or weekends

BedfordMusicHub.org.uk

Individual lessons from £12 per lesson
Group lessons from £5 per lesson (subject to availability)

Hire an instrument from £3.50 a month

Financial support for those who qualify

Instrument Assisted Purchase Scheme (Pay monthly with no VAT)

BedfordMusicHub.org.uk or www.BedsMusic.coop for more info

Bedford Music Hub
Book a free taster session

Saturday Morning Music Centre
Rock Band
Beginner Groups

...because music is better when we play it together

Wind Band Keyboard Group Junior Jazz Garageband
String Ensemble Recorders Percussion Songwriting and much more

Castle Newnham School from 9am-12pm
BedfordMusicHub.org.uk or www.BedsMusic.coop for more info

BEDFORD MUSIC HUB PRESENTS...

Bedford KIDS CHORUS
AGE 7-11

A new creative singing group for primary school students

Meet new friends & enjoy singing together

Tuesdays 1:30-5:30

£20 Per Term

Folk Songs Rock & Pop ABBA Adele Choral Classics
Musical Theatre Motown Hits Harmony Singing and much more

Castle Newnham School Every Tuesday
Visit BedfordMusicHub.org.uk or call 01234 718088