



Newsletter

22nd April, 2022

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

A warm welcome back to school for the start of the Summer Term—I hope you all were able to enjoy your Easter breaks and have been able to enjoy some of the recent sunny weather. As always, your children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm and are all geared up for the final part of the year.

As many of you will have already seen, we welcomed Sarah into school, a professional artist who we commissioned to create a special mural in the Aviary building. This is our newest building and is where our classrooms for Years 4, 5, and 6 are, and we always intended to have something on the white corridor walls to link it with the rest of the school, but the pandemic got in the way. So finally, we have our mural—you will see all our rainbow birds, which reflect all the classes in our school and the journey that a child takes from their earliest days as a Robin to their last days as a Sabrewing. Those rainbow colours reflect our hope that as children journey through their primary school career, they know they are loved and that they will flourish as they grow. It's also a very beautiful piece of art for us all to enjoy!

Elsewhere in school, children have begun to start their new topics of learning—in Robins, the children have been learning the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar and have created their own textured hungry caterpillars and using the book to help them learn the days of the week. We will be sending home this term's curriculum news and home learning information later on today.

Tomorrow, a group of children will be representing St James' as they perform the Guard of Honour duties at Bedford Blues' rugby match at Goldington Road—we've often been invited to do this for the club, but again the pandemic has prevented this—another sign that maybe we are getting back to some sort of normality.

In terms of Covid, all legal restrictions have now been lifted by the Government. Later in the newsletter, I will include the latest Public Health advice in terms of when to keep your child off school. We continue to ask you to be cautious, however, and think carefully before you send an ill child to school. This term, we will be reintroducing clubs and other activities which we have all missed in recent years, and starting from Monday we will no longer operate the 2 gate/one way entry/exit system—this is further explained later on in the newsletter. Whilst it's great that restrictions are now being lifted, it's really important that we all remember that Covid is still present and people are ill with it, some of whom very seriously so, so please continue to be considerate of each other.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend,

Maria & all the team.





Huge thanks to all the children for the sponsored PSA Easter Bunny Hop. We raised a fantastic £668 for the DEC Ukraine Appeal!



Welcoming Ukrainians to our neighbourhood

An organisation and fund to support Ukrainian refugees settling locally has been set up through St James' Church, Biddenham and Great Denham. The plan is to urgently build an initial emergency fund, to enable a quick response to assist the Ukrainians who are arriving here.

We will be seeing Ukrainian children in our schools, local clubs and neighbourhoods and this will be an opportunity for you to make them feel welcome and to offer equipment, clothes or toys in good condition. The journeys through Ukraine to reach here are terrifying with the risk of violent assault and murder. The loss of their homes and jobs and potentially their fathers and husbands is traumatising. Ukrainians settling here are starting life with virtually nothing, so any financial donations are also greatly appreciated.

Funds raised will be held in a restricted account and will be used only to help meet the many needs of those refugees arriving in Biddenham, Great Denham, St Mary's and wider Bedford for however long our support is required.

Please consider giving to this fund. There are a number of ways you can make a donation:

1. By bank transfer – sending your donation to the following account:

Name: Biddenham PCC

Sort Code: 60-02-13 (NatWest Bank)

Account No: 5131 7710

In the reference field please enter "Ukraine" followed by your postcode and house number. Gift Aid will be claimed where possible – adding 25% to the value of your donation.

2. By cheque – payable to "Biddenham PCC".

Please include a note of your name and address so as to allow Gift Aid to be claimed and add "for Ukraine".

3. Place your donation in a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available in St James' church). Please mark the envelope "Ukraine".

Donations can be sent to the St James' Church PCC treasurer at 32a Church End, Biddenham, MK40 4AR. Alternatively, donations can be handed to a churchwarden or simply placed in the weekly collection in St James' church. Also you can call 01234 353662 or 07973 264647.

Thank you for your invaluable support in welcoming refugee Ukrainians to our neighbourhood.

Updated Covid Guidance

School Gates—the only gate in use from Monday will be the Pedestrian Gate. Parents are able to bring children to their classrooms in the morning, and will exit school via the Pedestrian Gate. In the afternoons, parents will enter and leave the school site via the Pedestrian Gate. Please continue to limit the number of people who come onto school site, and maintain as much distance as is practicable possible. Messages for teachers should still be delivered via the School Office. We ask that you continue to limit face to face visits to the Office where possible.

Public Health advice:

Children or adults with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

Children or adults who are unwell **and have a high temperature** should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to their education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.

A parent/carer has sent a child into the setting who is unwell and has said they have had a negative test- what should we do?

Regardless of the negative test result, if the **child is unwell and has a high temperature they should not attend until their temperature has returned to normal.**

A child has had a positive COVID-19 test result what should we do?

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Remote Learning will usually no longer be provided for children who are absent from school due to Covid. This is because they will be absent from school due to being unwell and will therefore not be well enough to continue to learn. Parents who wish their ill child to continue learning at home can access lessons via the [National Oak Academy](#)

<i>Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)• a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours• a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste• shortness of breath	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• feeling tired or exhausted• an aching body• a headache• a sore throat• a blocked or runny nose• loss of appetite• diarrhoea• feeling sick or being sick
<i>The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.</i>	

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!

St James' CEVA Primary School Term Dates 2022-2023

	INSET Day
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	School Open

September 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

October 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

November 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

December 2022				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

January 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

February 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

March 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

April 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

May 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

June 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

July 2023				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Attendance Reminders

- The school day starts at 8.50am—children should be at school ready to start their day at this time. School does not start at 9.00 (this is the time when registers close)
- All Leaves of absences must be requested in good time and should be made on the request form available either on our website or from the school office.
- Leaves of absence will only be authorised for exceptional reasons—regulations do not permit Head Teachers to authorise absences for the purposes of family holidays.
- If your child is absent from school, you must ring the school office by 9.30am to advise us of their absence.

Driving to school

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.

Please also be aware that further roadworks are being advertised to start 27th April at the top of Gold Lane—this may cause delays, so please bear this in mind when planning your journey to school.

Term Ahead Dates

25th April	Y5 Multi-sports
27th April	RSE Information Session for parents 5.00 in the Hall
2nd May	Bank Holiday
4th May	Bike to School Day
5th May	Y4 Multi-sports
w/b 9th May	Y6 End of KS2 Statutory Tests
12th May	Y2 Trip to Cambridge Science Centre
18th-20th May	Y6 Residential
24th May	Y3 & 4 Sports
27th May	School Jubilee Day
	End of Term 5 3.30pm
6th June	INSET Day—school closed to children
7th June	Parents Meeting for new Reception Class Sept 22 5.00pm
1st July	Sports Day & Family Picnic lunch
W/b 4th July	Secondary School transfer days for Y6 (various dates)
13th July	Moving up morning for new classes
	Reports Parents Evenings
20th July	Leaver's Service 2.30pm
21st July	Last day of Term—1.30 finish
22nd July	Jubilee Bank Holiday

Staffing Update

Unfortunately, Mrs Corby continues to be unwell and has been signed off work until half term. Mrs Dimmock will continue to teach Year 4 on Mondays and Tuesdays.

This week, we have welcomed Ms Julie Garstang to St James' as our new School Business Manager—I know you will all welcome her to our school family and that you will be patient as she gets used to all our routines and systems.

RSE Information Evening

(Relationships and Sex Education)

This is for all parents and is an opportunity to gain an overview of what will be taught to children mainly in Term 6, where we focus on 'Changing Me'. We will cover our approach to Sex Education and share the materials and resources which will be used to teach the children. The full policy can be found on our website.