



# Newsletter

## 17th June, 2022

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

So, it seems that summer has arrived this week—thank you to all of you who have remembered to send children into school with sunhats on and sun cream applied. They have coped well with the rising heat!

On Tuesday, we enjoyed our termly art day, with a focus on developing skills in sculpture. Our older children took part in an athletics tournament on Monday and then the whole school enjoyed their athletics sessions yesterday. Children in Year 4 have completed their Multiplication Tables Checks, the last of the statutory assessments for this year. Today is Bend the Rules Day, so we have all sorts of rebellion going on around the school today! Thank you for supporting the PSA with this event.

Next week, the busyness of the summer term continues—Kingfishers are off on their trip on Monday into Bedford Town Centre to Naughty Pizza (please remember sunhats and suncream!), our older girls are off to a football tournament on Tuesday and then on Wednesday, some of them will be attending the Cricket County finals in Flitwick, after the winning the local competition last week! On Thursday, Sabrewings will receive a special workshop session focussed on independent travel, as part of their preparations to start secondary school in September.

This weekend is Father's Day—we wish all our dads, grandads, uncles, mums who are also dads and all other father figures the happiest of weekends—thank you for everything you do to give your children all the love and care they deserve!

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



### Staffing Update

It is with great sadness that we must inform you of Mrs Steed's decision to leave St James' at the end of this academic year. Dawn has been part of our family for 9 years and has been an integral part of our team, and I know many of you have appreciated her kind and compassionate nature as she has helped you and your family over the years. Dawn has decided that she needs to give her family her full time and attention and so will be leaving us to be able to find that time and space. We will all miss her tremendously, and will begin the recruitment process shortly to find someone who can at least try to fill her shoes!



## Annual Sports Day & Picnic Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022



@ Biddenham International School

Leave school at 9am - if you can help walk the children down please let your child's class teacher know.

Then walk back to school to share a family picnic on the field.

### Art Day—Sculpture



On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June the whole school had an art day about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The art day meant that the children could learn how to make sculptures. First of all we searched the playground and field for natural materials but other classes used different materials. I found some rocks for my creation about me. My practise sculpture was about climbing. I made it out of sticks and stones. After that, we watched the highlights of the Platinum Jubilee and got some ideas. I picked to do a crown sculpture. After lunch, I found the things I would need. There were sticks, string and leaves. The crown was successfully but very hard to build. Eventually I finished the crown and it was home time. What a great day!

By Phineas (Year 2)

## Safeguarding

In the past few weeks, a number of incidents have arisen which have caused us concern from a safeguarding point of view. Please be aware of the following information and take appropriate action to help us keep all children safe from harm:

**Smart watches:** Children should not wear smart watches to school or bring in any electronic items which have the capability to take photographs or record videos/sounds. Mobile phones are only allowed to be brought into school by older children who walk to/from school, and must be handed in to staff at the start of every day. Any child found with these items during the school day will have them confiscated and they will be returned directly to parents.

**Water bottles:** these should contain water only. No flavourings such as squash should be in water bottles. No medicines, such as Movicol, should ever be in a child's water bottle, and is incredibly dangerous practice. **All medicines should be brought to school via the school office and a form completed and signed by the parent.** Our policy is that we will only allow prescribed medicines to be administered in school, so if your child does need Movicol, for instance, unless this is prescribed by a doctor, then you will need to administer this at home.

**Youtube:** there have been a number of behaviour incidents recently, where children have said or done something inappropriate, which they tell us they have seen on Youtube. This includes using unacceptable language, performing adult themed actions, or referring to adult horror films. Once children hear and see this content, it can't be deleted from their brains, it 's there forever.

You must ensure that your child's access to Youtube and other forms of social media and television is monitored and controlled carefully, and you must ensure you know what your child is watching on their tv, tablet or other devices—this is your responsibility as a parent.

If staff are aware of uncensored access to inappropriate material and feel this is harming a child, they are duty bound to report this to the Local Authority Children's Services.

Please find time this weekend to check on what your child is accessing, and set up parent controls on everything; even seemingly benign sites are vulnerable to misuse. Please also include a check on any online gaming sites they may use; children are particularly vulnerable to grooming on these sites.

Useful sites include:

[National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

[Promoting online safety for children | The Children's Society \(childrensociety.org.uk\)](#)



## Term Dates

20th June	Kingfishers Trip to Naughty Pizza School Office closed today, urgent contact only, please
21st June	Y5/6 Girls Football tournament Robins Hearing Screening
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>Y5/6 Girls County Cricket Finals</b>
<b>23rd June</b>	<b>Y6 Independent Travel workshop</b>
28th June	Green Jays Trip to Marston Vale Forest
29th June	PSA Sponsored Scoot
1st July	Sports Day & Family Picnic
w/b 4th July	Various Transition Days for Year 6 pupils moving into secondary school
5th July	Robins & Whinchats Trip to Woburn
6th July	Kingfishers & Peacocks Stem Fair
8th July	Peacocks Trip to Box End
13th July	Moving Up morning—children spend time in new classes Parents Evening to discuss end of year reports queries, if necessary 4.00-7.00
<b>15th July</b>	<b>Music Concert 1.00pm—parents welcome (children who have had music lessons will perform on the piano, guitar, recorder and violin)</b>
18th July	Green Jays & Kingfishers concert at the Corn Exchange
19th July	Proms in the Playground 'Best of British' - whole school from 5.30pm
20th July	Leaver's Service 2.00pm
21st July	Last Day of term, own clothes, 1.30pm finish
22nd July	Jubilee Holiday

## **Additional Information:**

Sports Day—we walk from school to Biddenham for our sports day. You can either walk with us or meet us all there (it's really helpful if you can walk with us, though). We then walk back to school. Children return to classes for a short spell. We then all go out onto the field for a picnic, which you can join. Children and families can eat together. Bring picnics, blankets, chairs, etc we ask adults not to bring alcohol, though (we are a primary school, after all!).

Proms in the Playground—classes, the choir, and the whole school are learning songs for a special Best of British concert. All children take part in this. This is held outside (so we pray for good weather) and you and your families are the audience. Bring blankets, chairs etc so you're comfortable. It lasts about an hour. Think music festival, but on a much smaller scale!



### Harpur Trust Art competition 2022

This year we entered the Harpur Trust Art Competition and have had some great successes! Children had to produce work on the theme of 'Future Bedford.'

Congratulations to Daniela (Year 2) who has won second place in her age group category. Thanks to Daniela's fantastic artwork, she has won £200 worth of art materials for the school.

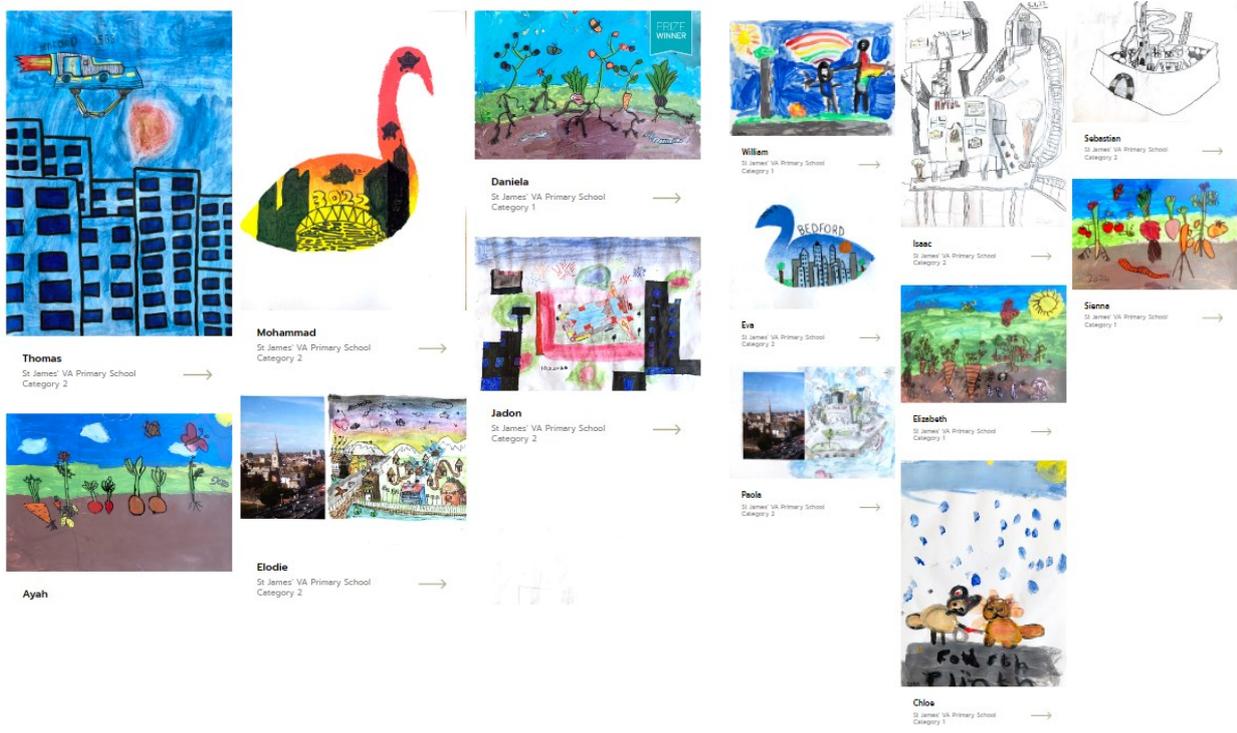
Chloe (Year 1) and Elodie (Year 5) were commended for their artwork.

Elizabeth (Year 2), Ayah (Year 2), Sienna (Year 2), William (Year 1), Paola (Year 5) and Thomas (Year 4) will also have their artwork displayed in The Higgins, Bedford.

All children will be invited to a preview even on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. (Letters with further information to be sent by the Harpur Trust shortly.)

The exhibition will be open to the public from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

You can also see the exhibition here: [2022 Exhibition - Harpur Trust \(harpur-art-competition.org.uk\)](https://www.harpur-art-competition.org.uk)



# After School Clubs

We are delighted to announce that Premier Education will be hosting After School clubs at **St James' CoE V.A Primary School** during the Summer Term.

The commonwealth games will be held right on our doorstep in Birmingham this year. Hosting over 18 different sports with 71 countries taking part. We would love for the children to come and learn about one of the world's biggest multisport events and try out a variety of the sports during our club.

Simply click the link below to book your place!

[St\\_James'\\_Church\\_of\\_England\\_V.A\\_Primary\\_School\\_-\\_Premier\\_Education\\_\(premier-education.com\)](http://St_James'_Church_of_England_V.A_Primary_School_-_Premier_Education_(premier-education.com))



### XXII Commonwealth Games\*

**Monday** - Years 1 & 2  
**Tuesday** - Years 3 & 4  
3.30pm - 4.30pm

*Please note the clubs will be listed as 'Summer Sports' on our booking system*

All clubs start w/c 13th June and run for 5 weeks  
£20 per child per club  
Available to boys and girls

www.premier-education.com



For further information, please contact [mkoffice@premier-education.com](mailto:mkoffice@premier-education.com) or call on 01908 597940

 [@PremierEducationBedfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/PremierEducationBedfordshire)


## JOIN THE ADVENTURE with the Girls' Brigade




'I love getting my badges at Girls' Brigade!'



**EXPLORERS**

4-7 YEARS

**JUNIORS**

7-10 YEARS

**SENIORS**

10-13 YEARS

**BRIGADERS**

13-18 YEARS

**WE MEET THURSDAYS AT**  
**WOOTTON NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH**  
 CAUSE END ROAD, MK43 9DE



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP BY CONTACTING  
**BBGB1STWOOTTON@GMAIL.COM**

### DUD News

Recently we have been enjoying activities such as making playdough, studying the life cycle of a butterfly, rainbow making and cloud in a jar. The children are also enjoying playing outside in the afternoons.

We will be having an end of term party so keep an eye out for this, it will probably involve lots of water!

Until the end of term we have a lovely student with us completing her work experience from Bedford College, her name is Arooj and she is studying child care.

Please make sure that before the end of term you have considered if you may require child care for the new school year, especially those whom book places on an AdHoc basis.

Our opening hours are:

07.30-09.00 Mon-Fri  
 15.00-18.00 Mon-Thur  
 15.00-17.30 Fri

Please be aware that there will be **no after school club on 21st July**.

We will be open for breakfast club 21st July only.

Cathy, Kelly and Arooj

**Dawn until Dusk Ltd**

**4 Warren Court, Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5QB**

**Tel:01234 930505 Mobile:07826100013 Email:[info@kidsdawntildusk.co.uk](mailto:info@kidsdawntildusk.co.uk)**



## Sunflower Diaries competition for Biddenham Village Show (at St James VA School on Sunday 11th September 2022)

After two years of covid restrictions Biddenham Village Show is back for **September 11th 2022!** This is a village show that has been running since around 1865, so there is a lot of history, and it needs everyone's support to keep it going!

There will be a series of competitions posted throughout the next half term for all age groups of children to enter. The first competition is for everyone!

### SUNFLOWER COMPETITION!

#### Competition rules;

1. Plant your sunflower seed (ideally now!)
2. Photograph the milestones of your sunflower growing
3. Add a few words to your photographs to explain what is happening, where it is growing (your house, grandparents' house, school etc...) and how high it is reaching.
4. Height measurement is from the base of the stem at soil level to the top of the stem (where the stem meets the flower). The stem can be extended to measure the full height of the plant.

Width measurement is the diameter of the seed head over the top of the flower (excluding the petals).

If you would like to email your progress, please ask your parent/carer to email the address below and we will post your updates on the Biddenham show website <http://www.biddenhamshow.org/>.

**By 1st September**, measure your sunflower **height and seed head width** by taking a photo with a **tape measure by the side** (a person may be in the photo holding the measure).

(photographs will appear on the website and at the Show, so by emailing you are giving us permission to use your photograph)

*Please don't forget to include your school year (or state over 19 if an adult), your name and address in your entry.*

Post your diary (if you kept one) and final photographs to [biddensunflowers@gmail.com](mailto:biddensunflowers@gmail.com) by 1st September.



## Walk & Talk with Mel

During Summer Holidays for anyone aged **7-13 years old**.

**50min walk** around Priory Marina Bedford, one to one or small groups max of 4.

Focusing on **building confidence and resilience** in preparation for returning to education in September or starting university.

The walk will consist of, **Listening, talking, mindful practices and coping strategies for anxiety.** \*

- **Thursday Mornings**
- **28th July**
- **4th August**
- **11th August**
- **18th August**
- **25th August**

Book on one or all five, £45 per session.

Email me [mpositivetherapy@gmail.com](mailto:mpositivetherapy@gmail.com)

I am a school counsellor and private counsellor, fully DBS checked and member of BACP and insured for walk and talk through Holistic Insurance.

