



Newsletter

15th July, 2022

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

What a week! Your children have been coping so well with the heat this week, much better than I am! As you will be aware, there is an amber warning in place for the start of next week. We have spent time planning for this and risk assessing the situation—one thing we've got really good at thanks to Covid is contingency planning! We expect to be able to open safely for the children and staff.

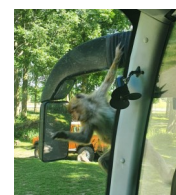
The last two weeks have continued to be busy with lots of activities, trips, rehearsals for performances—every year, the whole end of year thing creeps up on me and before I know it, we're heading into the very last week of term.

The big news of the fortnight is the publication of the end of KS2 test results and we are delighted with ours. Despite the pandemic, the outcomes achieved by the children are truly amazing, and reflect the hard work of the whole team as the children have moved through the school. The children are assessed in reading, writing, and maths—nationally, 59% of children achieved the expected standard in all 3 areas; at St James' 77% achieved the standard, which is just phenomenal. Your children should feel so incredibly proud of **all** their achievements—academic, social, behavioural etc, what wonderful young people they are!

Congratulations to Years 4 and 5 who took part in Biddenham School's STEM Fair—and won! Huge thanks to those parents who have come into school to share their jobs with the children, everyone, including the adults, has been fascinated and we really appreciate you giving up your time! Everyone enjoyed making their unique piece of art work on the spin bike (thank goodness it was when the weather was relatively cool!)

We're all looking forwards to our final week of the school year—can you believe the end is in sight already! Please stay well over the weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



Heatwave Arrangements—for Monday and Tuesday

Relaxed uniform—children should come to school in cool, light coloured clothes (no football kits, please)

Every child **MUST have a hat and a water bottle** (water only, no squash or other types of drinks) and should wear sun cream (although the children will not spend any extended time in the sun). We will also provide opportunities to play in the cool classrooms during the lunch period. We will make dynamic risk assessments throughout and will amend all arrangements as necessary, according to the weather.

Staff will regularly remind children to drink water and there will be plenty of opportunities to refill water bottles.

On **Monday morning**, we will let children play in the water. We would welcome any donations of small paddling pools. Children may bring in one item to play with (eg a water pistol); they will get wet, so please send them in with a towel or a change of clothing.

On **Monday afternoon**, we will make use of our 3 air con classrooms and the relatively cool Hall—all children will have access to these spaces as the heat rises.

On **Tuesday**, when it will be the hottest, we will ensure that gentle activities are planned, with all children again spending time in the coolest spaces. On Tuesday afternoon, we will have a **movie afternoon** in the air conditioned classrooms.

Tuesday's Proms in the Playground will go ahead as planned. You may choose to collect your child at 3.30 if you wish; please return them to school for 5.00. Children who stay in school will be looked after in the cool classrooms, and can bring a small snack to keep them going. The performance starts at 5.30. we have organised ourselves so that the children will wait for their performance slots in the air conditioned classrooms. Parents and audience members will be sitting on the field—you may wish to bring parasols/gazebos/shady shelters; if you do, we ask you to use your common sense in terms of where you pitch up so that you don't end up blocking other people's views. The PSA will be serving refreshments (Pimms I'm told!) in the shady Discovery Garden, which will also provide a respite for you if needed. As this is a 'festival', adults are welcome to bring snacks/alcohol, although we do ask that you remember we are a primary school and that you remain responsible.

Robins' Induction Story & picnic is going ahead, in the shade, on Monday afternoon.

Monday's Corn Exchange concert is going ahead—we have been assured that children will be in spaces which are air conditioned and that there is good access to drinking water. We have told the children to wear either their school summer dress or their PE kit (school PE top and dark coloured shorts or skirt). They should bring this in a bag to change into after our water play.

All staff have been made aware of guidance from the Government and are aware of the signs and symptoms of heatstroke and heat exhaustion and the actions to take if necessary. This guidance can be found [here](#).

Term Dates

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

School restarts for children on Monday, 5th September

Staffing Update

As you know, Mrs Steed will be leaving us at the end of this term. We have recruited Ms Julayne Scarlett to replace her (Dawn is irreplaceable, but you know what we mean!) who many of you already know through the PSA—we are delighted that she will be joining us in September!

Provisional KS2 Outcomes 2022

	Read- ing	Average Scaled Score Reading	Writin g (Teac her As- sessm ent)	GPS (Gram mar, Punc- tuatio n, Spelli ng)	Aver- age Scale d Score GPS	Maths	Average Scaled Score Maths	RWM Com- bined
St James'	86%	105.6	83%	91%	109	82%	106.5	77%
National	74%	105	69%	72%	105	71%	104	59%

Keeping Safe in the Hot Weather

Bedford Borough have asked us to send you the following links:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-tips-for-parents>

[Water safety \(bedsfire.gov.uk\)](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Water-safety)

DUD News

As you may all be aware now I will be leaving as Manager on Wednesday 20th July. It has been a very emotionally hard year for myself and my family and believe that it is now the right time to re-evaluate my future. I have enjoyed nearly 8 years of working for DUD and the last 6 of those being here at St James'. During my time here I have developed great relationships with the children, helping to make their time spent here with us as much fun as possible, whilst in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. I consider myself very lucky to have managed at St James' with such wonderful children, and will miss them all very much.

You will be pleased to hear that a new Manager will be coming into our setting from next Monday. Her name is Heidi and she has been working at our club in Cotton End for some time. Heidi will be working alongside me until the 20th getting to grips with her new role here at St James' and of course getting to know the children and parent/carers alike. This should ensure a smooth transition.

End of term fun

We will be having our end of term water party next Thursday, 14th. A change of clothes, suitable foot wear and water play toys are advised.

Bookings

Also, please do give some thought about your possible childcare requirements for September and let me know before the end of term if you can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind words and support, and to your wonderful children whom really have made my time here so enjoyable, they are fantastic and I wish them all every success and happiness in the future xx

Many thanks

Cathy, Kelly and Arooj



50 low and no-cost activities for children under 5 and their families. Free to download and packed full of useful tips and advice. Links to resources and local places where you can fun days out with your little one. Head to the app store and download '50 Things To Do' #50TTDBedfordshire

<https://bedfordshire.50thingstodo.org>



FALCON GYMNASICS CLUB
SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

We are offering gymnastics lessons as an extra curricular club at your school!

Through positive feedback and encouragement, gymnasts will enjoy learning core gymnastics skills:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| * Co-ordination | * Agility | * Balance | * Aerial awareness |
| * Rolls | * Flexibility | * Acrobatics | * Advanced skills |
| * Box work | * Routines | | |

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

WWW.FALCONGYM.COM



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 bidenhamsunflowers@gmail.com by 1st September.

8. Show judges will visit the top 3 entries in each category to verify their measurements, before the results are revealed on 11th September at the Show!



**Make the Switch!
Cycle together as a family!**

Do you want to change the school run?
Are you looking to save money by making more journeys by bike?
Free family cycle lessons are available in Bedford.

For more information, please get in touch:
admin@outspokentraining.co.uk

outspokentraining.co.uk/family-cycle-training

Outspoken Training

Biddenham Show Summer Challenge for Years 5 and 6

<http://www.biddenhamshow.org>

Biddenham Village Show 11th September 2022

This year, we have a challenge for students to attempt over the summer holidays.

This can be as simple or complicated as you choose, but the goal is to have a **working hydroponic system growing 'something' by 11th September 2022**, which you can bring to Biddenham Village Hall at 12.00 (midday) to 'show'. There will be a display of all hydroponic gardens left up for the afternoon and prizes up for grabs!

The video (on the next slide) shows how to create a simple hydroponic setup, you could use this or adapt/create an alternative set up as part of your summer project.

Judging will be in three categories;

Originality

Success of growing

Ability to expand into bigger production (this could be in the form of a plan, rather than the actual hydroponic set up)

Two litre bottle hydroponic garden

[You tube clip to explain how to begin](#)



Please bring your entry to Biddenham Village Hall by 11.30am, where it will be on display for the duration of the show. Judging will take place in the afternoon.

Good Luck!

[Hydroponics in a 2-Liter Soda Bottle – STEM activity. - YouTube](#)