



# Newsletter

## 6th September 2019

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Welcome back everyone—special warm welcomes to all our new children, families and staff. We hope you are all beginning to feel settled as part of our school family. Our children have made a super start to the year and it's been lovely to visit classes as they start to get to grips with new topics and learning—so much energy and enthusiasm!

Staff enjoyed two very valuable INSET days—on Monday the whole staff met to review last year and plan ahead for the coming year, and on Tuesday we went to Peter Pan Teaching School for training on how we could further develop our learning environments, building on the great practice in Early Years.

The first newsletter of the year is always a bit of a bumper edition, as we set everything up for the year ahead, so there's a lot of information included today.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend—the Biddenham Show takes place on Sunday, do come along if you are able.

Maria & all the team at St James'

### Quick Reminders

- Attendance—schools are not allowed to authorise any leaves of absence from school, except for exceptional circumstances. Family holidays are not exceptional, so please do not book holidays during term time
- Punctuality—we really need to improve punctuality across the whole school. Please ensure you are at school for 8.50am every morning, so that your child can be registered and ready to learn for 9.00, when first lessons start. Please ensure your child is collected promptly at the end of the day. Any child uncollected by 3.35pm will be taken to the office to await your arrival; for any child not collected by 3.45, you may incur child care charges.
- Parking near school—please use your car safely and with consideration to pedestrians and our neighbours—this means not parking on the yellow zig-zags, across our neighbours drives or on the grass verges. It is our preference that you park and stride—this means you leave the car away from the school and walk the last part of your journey to/from school.
- Uniform—it is our expectation that children wear smart school uniform, which includes black shoes rather than trainers. Long hair should be tied up using modest colours/accessories (bandanas are not appropriate). With the weather beginning to change, please make sure that your child always has a waterproof coat in school. Families are able to make the decision about when to move from 'summer' to 'winter' uniform.
- It is helpful if children keep a pair of trainers or wellington boots in school; this means they can continue to use the field during wetter/muddier times.
- Please remember to keep your contact details up to date with the office. If/when you get a different mobile phone do remember to update/download all the relevant apps so that you continue to stay well connected to school
- Illness—if your child vomits or has diarrhoea, you are asked to keep them away from school for 48 hours after their last bout of illness; this is in line with Health Authority advice, and helps to keep mass sickness to an absolute minimum. Please use good judgement when deciding whether your child needs a day off school due to low level illness such as headaches, light tummy aches or coughs. If in doubt, send them to school and we will contact you if they really are unwell (very often, children might feel a little unwell in the morning, but pick up very quickly!)
- Please help support your child's sense of responsibility and independence by sending in trip slips and monies with them, in a labelled envelope/purse, for collection in class, rather than bringing this into the office yourself.
- Food in school—chocolate bars, sweets, drinks other than water must not be brought into school. All food items MUST be nut free, as we have a number of children with serious allergies.
- Birthdays—children may wear their own clothes on their birthday (or on the closest Monday/Friday if their birthday falls at the weekend/holidays). Please do not bring sweets or cakes to share, because we will ask your child to take them back home.



## A rainbow will always appear in the clouds

Taken from Genesis 9

The Rainbow is a powerful symbol which represents our core values and beliefs. The Rainbow was sent to Noah as a sign of God's promise to His people. For us, the Rainbow symbolises our promise to love all of our children, as they grow and develop in a nurturing, caring and safe environment, secure in the knowledge that they are cherished as a gift from God.

**Rooted in Christian principles, we are a family who work together to:**

Build an inclusive, loving and nurturing school, which welcomes and values all

Enjoy caring and authentic relationships, and live well together

Grow in wisdom through a broad, innovative and interesting curriculum, which develops a love of learning

Aspire to be the best we can be in all that we do

***'It takes a village to raise a child'***

Love      hope      peace      joy      forgiveness  
compassion      honesty      patience  
perseverance      koinonia

This is our vision for our school. As we develop our school improvement priorities for the coming year, we will be mindful of our core vision and values. Over the next few weeks, we will provide you with lots more information, so that you know what we're up to!

## Mrs Lawless & Year 1 are looking for donations of the following:

Offcuts of timber (non-treated) for woodwork

Recyclables- cereal boxes, kitchen rolls, egg boxes, yogurt pots.

Pots and pans, kitchen utensils.

Bucket, spades, dress up clothes/ role play items.

Stopwatches, walkie-talkies, wall map, globe

Any donations gratefully received. Thank you.

## We are also looking for any donations of the following:

Old household electrical items, such as kettles, hairdryers, hair straighteners, lamps

Any old plastic kitchen equipment, such as plates, cups and toy food

A child's kitchen for outdoor play

Any old dolls, plastic doll's house

Storage boxes (suitable for outdoors, preferably with lids)

Any writing equipment—paper, pens, envelopes

Donations of (healthy & easy to care for) pot plants

Throws & larger pieces of fabric

Thank you!

### Term Dates 2019-2020

#### Term 1

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October

INSET Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> – FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

#### Term 2

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER – FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY

#### Term 3

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019

#### Term 4

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

EASTER HOLIDAY – MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> – FRIDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL

#### Term 5

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May

INSET Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April

HALF TERM – MONDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> MAY

#### Term 6

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

INSET Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June

**\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\***

Reception:

Home Visits: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> September

Mornings only: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> September

Mornings plus lunch 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> September

Full time from 16<sup>th</sup> September



We really want to develop our whole school environment in order to support the full curriculum, both indoors and outdoors, as well as ensure all our learning spaces are as good as our new classrooms. To this end, Mrs Morton is currently working with businesses to see if we can get some volunteers to paint our older classrooms.

A key project, for which we have obtained some funding from the Diocese of St Albans, is to create a quiet garden space in the courtyard outside Year 1, using plants which feature in the Bible and other holy books. We plan to re-use pallets which we have collected over time, and re-fashion them into planters and seating. To do this, we really need your help! Please join us on **Saturday, 12th October** from 10.00-2.00, bringing with you any tools which will help us: hammers, saws, garden forks/spades, trowels etc. Over the next few weeks, we'll post more pictures of what we're hoping to do.





## Pupil Governor News

It is that time of year again for Pupil Governor Elections!

St. James' Pupil Governors are elected to represent the views of all pupils and to help improve our school.

Last year's Pupil Governors were very active and helped to organise the following exciting activities: Friendship Week, a Sweet sale to raise money for Children in Need and a Muffin Day and Bracelet Sale to raise money to improve the playground by buying new resources.

Two Pupil Governors from each class will be elected. You will be required to attend a meeting once a fortnight during lunch time.

### **Do you have any of the following skills? Then this role may be for you!**

- Have a passion for caring about our school and the wider world
- An excellent listener
- Works co-operatively with others and respects their views
- Reliable and willing to give up some of your own time to attend meetings
- Enjoys problem solving and thinking of ideas
- Is prepared not to be popular with everyone

If you want to become a Pupil Governor, you will need to write a short speech to say why you think you will be good at the role and what you would like to achieve if you are elected. Also, please create a campaign poster that can be displayed in your classroom.

Speeches and posters should be completed and in school (handed to your teacher) by Tuesday **10th September**. If you need any resources for this please see Mrs Doughty or your class teacher.

Campaigns (speeches) will take place in classes on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September or the morning of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September (depending upon your teacher) and then each class will vote in the hall (which will be set up as a polling station) on the afternoon of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Results will be announced in celebration assembly.

*The Friends of St James, Biddenham*  
presents

**An evening with**  
**Heart and Music**



Musical Director: Malcolm Crane

*A varied programme of music and songs, from show, film, folk and pop tunes to original compositions - plus some amusing poetry!*

**7:30pm, Saturday 12th October 2019**

St James's Church, Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AS  
Drinks and light refreshments in the interval

Entry **£10 each** (members of the Friends £8; children under 16 free)

To reserve your places, please contact:  
Diana Shooter: 01234 213305 - [diana.shooter437@btinternet.com](mailto:diana.shooter437@btinternet.com)  
Chris Jones: 01234 211759 - [chrishj49@gmail.com](mailto:chrishj49@gmail.com)

*In aid of The Friends of St James, Biddenham*  
*- the charity which preserves and enhances the historic church buildings for future generations*



**Girls Only Football**

U5/6 - Sunday morning training only

U7/8 - 5 a-side football. Sunday morning training/Saturday morning matches in the Beds FA Girls League.

U9/10 - 7 a-side football. Sunday morning training/Saturday morning matches in the Beds FA Girls League.

U11/12 - 9 a-side football. Sunday morning training/Saturday morning matches in the Beds FA Girls League.

Please contact Club Secretary for more details.  
[bromhamyouthafc@gmail.com](mailto:bromhamyouthafc@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/bromhamyouthafc>

**The FA**  
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB  
CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB

**TRY**  
*tennis*  
**FOR FREE**

Biddenham Tennis Club

Sunday, 22 September 2019

[www.lta.org.uk/tennisweekends](http://www.lta.org.uk/tennisweekends)

**LTA** NATURE VALLEY  
**BIG TENNIS WEEKENDS**



Year 1 to 3



**Petite Etoile French Club will be back in September 2019!**  
**New timetable: Wednesday's after school 3.30pm – 4.30pm**  
**£4.75 per session**

I am delighted to confirm that Petite Etoile French Club will be returning to St James' Primary School in September 2019. Please note that there will be a new timetable: from September 2019 the French club will be on a Wednesday after school, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Please note that I will also be increasing the cost of the after-school club by £0.25, so each session will now be £4.75. Payment must be made prior to the sessions starting, either on a half termly or termly basis.

If you would like your child to continue learning French with Petite Etoile French School, please fill in the form overleaf and return to your school office by **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July**.

**Supporting your child in their learning of French:** Login to [www.petite-etoile.co.uk](http://www.petite-etoile.co.uk) and click on the link for support videos. Here you will find short support videos of the language covered in our sessions, plus lists of vocabulary. Your child can show you what they have learnt and you can practise together. Any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email: [liskaler@petite-etoile.co.uk](mailto:liskaler@petite-etoile.co.uk) or phone: 07806 768604 and I will be happy to discuss any aspect with you in more detail.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and hope to see many of you again in September.

Warm wishes,

Lisa Kaler  
Director, Petite Etoile Ltd.

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**Petite Etoile French Club Autumn Term 2019**

1) I would like my child to attend French Club in September

Child's name:

Child's current class:

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Parent's preferred means of contact (please provide either a telephone number or email):

Date:

Petite Etoile Ltd.

Company No: 11070465



# Pub Night

Book the babysitter!

**Friday 20th September**

The Three Tuns - from 7:30pm



Event	Date & Time	Class	Staff Lead	Notes
Meet the Teacher	10.9.19 3.30-4.00	Y1-6	MS	An opportunity to meet your child's
Y5 Local Walk	11.9.19	Y5	TKL	See separate letter sent home
Bikeability	25.9.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
Individual Photos	26.9.19	All	DS	Siblings in school will also have photos
Fit for Fun	26.9.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
Macmillan Coffee Morning	27.9.19		LU	
Harvest Service	3.10.19 9.30am	Y5,6	IL, TKL	All families invited to attend
Y5 Higgins Museum Trip	4.10.19	Y5	TKL	
Friendship week	7th-11th October	All	CD, SM	
Autumn Book Fair	9th-16th October	All	IL	
MUFTI Beads of Courage	11.10.19	All	CD	Led by Pupil Governors
Book Blink	11.10.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Outdoor Day	12.10.19 10.00	All	MS	Please come and help us develop our
Celtic Harmony	18.10.19	Y3	GH	
Parents Meetings	29.10.19 4.00-8.30pm	All		
Swimming Starts	31.10.19	KS2	GH	See separate letter sent home
UK Parliament Week	4th-11th November	All	IL, CD	
KS2 SATs—Information meeting	5.11.19 5.00pm	Y6	IL	All parents of children in Year 6 should
Flu Vaccinations	28.11.19	All	DS	
Head Teacher for a Day	29.11.19		MS	Details will be sent home in due course
Christmas Decoration morning	2.12.19 9.00-10.30am	All	CD	Help us get into the festive spirit!
Y2 Winter Wonderland concert	3.12.19	Y2	SP	
Y3 & 5 Music Performances	3.12.19	Y3, 5	GH, TKL	
Pantomime	6.12.19	All	GH	Whole school trip, late return to school
Christmas Jumper Day	13.12.19	All	LR	
Book Blink	13.12.19 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Christmas Show	17.12.19 2.00, 4.00	YR, 1,	CD, FL, SP	
Christmas Service	18.12.19. 9.30am	All	LR, GH	Led by Y3,4; all invited to attend
Christmas Lunch	19.12.19	All	IL	
Carols Round the Tree	19.12.19 4.00	All	SM	
MUFTI	20.12.19	All		

Class Photos	25.2.20	All	DS	
Phonics Information Meeting	25.2.20 5.00pm	YR, 1, 2	SM	Information about how we teach phonics and the Statutory Phonics Screening checks
Book Week	2nd-6th March 2020	All	IL	
Book Blink	13.3.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Science Week	16th-20th March	All	TKL	
Parents Evenings	17.3.20 4.00-8.30pm	All		
KS1 SATs Information for parents	24.3.20 5.00	Y2	SM	
Easter Service	2.4.20 9.30am	All	FL, SP	Led by Years 1 &2, all families welcome
MUFTI	3.4.20	All		
INSET	20.4.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Relationships & Sex Education In-	28.4.20 5.00	All	MS	
Bend the Rules	1.5.20	All		
Bank Holiday	8.5.20			SCHOOL CLOSED
KS2 Test Week	11th-15th May	Y6	IL	All Y6 children MUST be in school
Book Blink	5.6.20 3.00	All		Doors will close at 3.30
Phonics Screening Checks	8th—12th June	Y1, 2	FL	
Sports Day & picnic	18.6.20	All	GH	
INSET	19.6.20	All		SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Music Concert	10.7.20 2.00	All	MS	
Summer Show	14.7.20 5.00	Y3,4,5	GH, LR, TKL	
Leaver's Service	16.7.20 9.30	Y6	IL	
MUFTI	17.7.20	All		

Class Assemblies 2.30pm	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Robins	28th November	6th March	25th June
Whinchats	22nd November	28th February	3rd July
Canaries	15th November	7th February	12th June
Green Jays	29th November	14th February	22nd May
Kingfishers	8th November	31st January	15th May
Peacocks	1st November	24th January	1st May
Sabrewings	18th October	17th January	26th June

## YOU'RE INVITED



WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT

Following the success of last year, we are again hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 9.15 to 10.45**. Everyone is welcome to attend for a coffee, cake, chat and charity raising games! Pupils from a St James class will be helping serve and take donations from all attending.

Any and all donations of cakes (homemade or store-bought) will be gratefully received from the Wednesday and Thursday of that week.