

Message From Antonia



Dear Families and Friends

I hope you are all safe and well. We have had a busy half term doing lots of exciting activities and learning. We hope you enjoy looking at the photos of what we have been getting up to. The pupils are spending lots of time in the Nature Garden and on the outdoor trampolines.

School Leaders from across BILTT have been visiting each other's schools this term and spending time observing children in class and learning outside. Our children and staff showed the great work we do and were very impressive. The commitment and expertise of all the staff who work at the BILTT schools shone through. We have identified some great new ways to share resources and work together.

We are aware of COVID cases increasing in Bedford and we have been affected. One bubble in school has closed this week. So far 3 children have tested positive and one member of staff.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A POSITIVE PCR TEST, PLEASE ADVISE SCHOOL VIA THE PUPIL ABSENCE LINE AS THIS WILL BE MONITORED OVER HALF TERM.

Please help to reduce risk for our pupils by meeting outdoors if you can and observing Hands/Face/Space during the half term break.

Best wishes, Antonia

Thank you

We have been lucky to have a generous legacy from Yvonne Haggerwood who is Jemma Stupple's Grandma. She was very happy that Jemma was at St John's and wanted to do something nice for the children because the school made such a difference to Jemma, so she left some money to help the school. We are very grateful.

David and Deborah Keogh have donated books and specialist equipment in memory of their son, Roger.

Term-time Absence

If you wish to request permission for your child to take absence during term time, please obtain a form from the School Office or our website. This should be completed and returned at least 4 weeks prior to the intended absence.



Pupil Absences

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please ensure you contact the school by 7:30 am EVERYDAY that your child is unwell by calling 01234 345565 and selecting option 1 for the pupil absence line. Please leave a brief message including your child's name, class and reason for absence.

Please also remember to advise Transport.



Fundraising

Thank you everyone for your support in raising a total of £79.50 and taking part by wearing your pyjamas!



Swimming pool

Update

The new air source heat pump is now installed and working well to keep the water nice and toasty for our swimmers. It will also save energy costs as we are no longer using so much gas to heat the pool.

We have also successfully bid for funding from Team Beds and Luton Opening School Facilities. This will enable the Family Swim to restart weekly once COVID restrictions allow. We will also use the funding to repair the Jacuzzi.

Pyjamarama Day



On 14th May, we celebrated Pyjamarama Day where we got to come to school in our pyjamas! We spent the day learning about bedtime stories and why they are important for us. One of the stories from the day was 'Frog on the Log', where blue bubble had a surprise guest from our own Mrs Frog! Across the school, pyjamas were created using paint and fruit, which was cut up in different shapes and patterns. S4/FE1 had fun doing a story massage to '5 Speckled Frogs' and finished the day with a 'slumber party', where the pupils enjoyed the music and lights.



Nature Garden

This term, classes have really enjoyed using our new Nature Garden. Over the next half term, we are going to be doing lots of planting and are looking for any donations of safe plants, planters (big ones) and compost so the pupils can continue to extend their skills and enjoy this wonderful space!



Rebound Therapy and Cookery

This half term we have bounced back into rebound therapy, with lots of smiley pupils, as well as the continued use of our outdoor sunken trampolines that lots are getting involved with.

Many classes have been utilising the cookery room, trying new recipes and independently learning culinary skills.



Class updates

During this half term, S4/FE1 have been exploring and learning about our theme 'Under the Sea'. During Sensology and Sensory story sessions we have been using our senses to explore stimuli such as Shells, Seaweed, Bubble Wrap, Vinegar, Sun cream and lots more. We have also discovered the enjoyment of dressing up and looking at ourselves in giant mirrors. This has been lots of fun!



Half Term Family Activities at The Higgins Bedford

Join Little Science Lab this half term for fantastic online science experiments and visit The Higgins Bedford to have a go at a fun new I-Spy trail.

Children are invited to join online hands-on experiments from Wednesday 2nd –Friday 4th June from the comfort of home. Workshops include dissecting owl pellets to discover what owls like to eat, exploring the world of sound to make whistles and creating rainbow towers using chemistry.

There will be two sessions running for each workshop at 10 and 11am, each will cost £5 per child (kit included). Workshops are online via Zoom and will last for approximately 30-45 minutes. Each workshop is limited to 15 places and is suitable for children aged 5 and above.



All workshops include pre-prepared kits provided by Little Science Lab with the materials needed. They can be collected from The Higgins Bedford's front desk from the 25th May during opening hours. Proof of purchase will be required when collecting the kits.

Bookings can be made on The Higgins Bedford website at www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk or by calling the Box Office at 01234 718044. Bookings will close on 31st May.

Sensory Haircuts

SENSORY CUTS

Sensory Cuts are based in our Gents & Juniors Salon in Bedford. We offer haircuts for adults and children with a wide variety of needs including: Autism, ADHD, sensory processing difficulties, mental health disorders as well as haircut anxiety. These will take place in our dedicated sensory room which is equipped with sensory toys, TV and XBOX One games console.



We always like to find out a little bit about what are client's interests are and if there are any specific sensory requirements so that we can connect with them and make them feel at ease.

Please contact us to discuss your individual needs.

Website: www.sensorycuts.co.uk
Email: info@sensorycuts.co.uk
Telephone: 01234 402065
Mobile: 07523 198642
Facebook: [@gentsandjuniorsbedford](https://www.facebook.com/gentsandjuniorsbedford)
Instagram: [@gentsandjuniorsbedford](https://www.instagram.com/gentsandjuniorsbedford)

18 St Marys Street, Bedford MK42 0AS
Registered in England Sensory Cuts CIC Company No. 13075178

Free Creative Workshops

MAY HALF TERM
FREE CREATIVE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND
HOUGHTON HALL PARK
FRIDAY 4TH JUNE



VENUE: HOUGHTON HALL PARK, PARK ROAD NORTH, HOUGHTON REGIS, DUNSTABLE, LU5 5FU

AGES 6-16 YEARS

CIRCUS FUN & STORYTELLING ADVENTURES
45 minute fun activity workshops made especially for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION GO TO WWW.FULLHOUSE.CO.UK/SEND
EMAIL: info@fullhouse.org.uk OR CALL 01234 550785

Please contact us for a trial if you have any specific access needs. Delivered with Covid safety measures in line with government guidelines.

FULL HOUSE Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes Local Authorities

@FULLHOUSEHEAO FULLHOUSETHEATRE

Information



St John's School **Carers** in Bedfordshire
Parent Support Group

Would you like to network with other parents from St John's?

Would you like to build your confidence and know what organisations are there to support your family?

Zoom support group with Jon
Parent support worker

3rd Monday of each month
10 - 11am

Contact: Jon.Clingan@carersinbeds.org.uk
www.carersinbeds.org.uk



TRIPLE P **Stepping Stones**
for every parent

For Parents of Children aged 3 to 12 years, with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities

This online workshop will help:

- Build positive relationships with your child
- Teach new skills
- Set rules and give clear instructions
- Respond to behaviour consistently and decisively
- Use discipline strategies
- Plan to manage potentially difficult situations
- Advocate for your child

For families with children who have developmental delay, sensory or physical disabilities. A diagnosis is not required to participate.

Course Details:
Wednesdays
9.30am to 11.30am
9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th June 2021;
7th, 14th & 21st July 2021

Sessions are held virtually via Zoom.
To book on the course, or for more information, please contact:
triplep@bedford.gov.uk

"Right support. Right action. Right time"

St John's School is a registered referral agent for



If you would like to Speak to someone in confidence about help from the

Foodbank, please ask Mel Wooding or telephone 01234 247224

Dates for the Diary

Monday 7th June —Pupils Return to School

Thursday 22nd July — Last Day of Term



Did you know you can raise money for St Johns School each time you shop On-Line?

It doesn't cost you anything – just shop using the partner retailers and they donate money to your chosen cause, for which you can nominate St John's School Association—Kempston.

Partner retailers include: Amazon, John Lewis, M&S and over 2000 others.

[St John's School App & Website Reminder](#)

We have lots of useful information on our website including:

- EYFS SEND Resources
- Information on Microsoft Teams and Zoom
- Promoting Wellbeing
- Ideas for Parents
- Speech & Language Therapy SS Team
- Food Parcels
- Free Access to Sensory Stories

Please follow this link to view [St John's School - Family Information \(st-johns-school.co.uk\)](http://StJohnsSchool-FamilyInformation(st-johns-school.co.uk))