



### Be COVID Aware

Do not come onto school site if you have any Coronavirus symptoms, & get tested. Maintain social distancing at all times. The symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

# Newsletter

## 2nd July, 2021

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

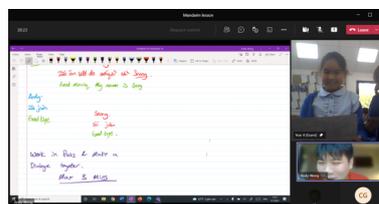
July is always an exciting and busy time in schools—end of year events are celebrations happen, end of year reports completed, planning for the new academic year as well as reflecting on the previous year, preparing for children to join and leave the school, trips and visits, and COVID restrictions all add up to a very busy period.

You may have picked up on the mounting pressure on the Government to clarify arrangements for schools from the 19th July—as it stands today, we do not know whether bubbles will continue in schools, and we don't know what will happen regarding isolation rules. I was really disappointed to read a widely reported quote from someone close to the Government criticising schools for closing entire classes in situations where one child has tested positive, implying that Head Teachers have been getting this wrong and have unnecessarily sent children home. I want you to know that whenever we have had to close a class and send all children home, this is because we have been directed to do this by Public Health, with reference to the guidance published by the Government. We are **really** hoping that all the current restrictions in school will be lifted for our last week of term—how lovely it will be for the children and staff to be able to mix and see each other! If restrictions are lifted, we will have some sort of whole school 'social' for children, staff and our families, and are making some tentative plans for what this might look like (pencil in your diaries the afternoon of Wednesday 21st July....) (and keep your fingers crossed!). We will confirm as soon as we possibly can.

Yesterday, our Year 6 children enjoyed the first of a series of activities to finish off their time at Primary School, in lieu of their cancelled residential. They travelled into London by train, visited the Tower of London, enjoyed a river cruise down the Thames and had a McDonalds. As you would expect, their behaviour was exceptional, and they all had a wonderful time together. Huge thanks to Mr Leach, Mrs Owens, Mrs Steed and our parents Helen, Mikky and Carole-Ann for giving up their time, keeping our children safe and ensuring they had just the best time! Elsewhere in school, children in Years 3, 4, 5 enjoyed a short lesson in mandarin, courtesy of the boys at Bedford School; the children learnt some simple phrases such as good morning, goodbye, thank you and really enjoyed the opportunity. We will hopefully be able to work with Bedford School again in the new academic year. Year 4 went on a Now Press Play experience learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam, our Robins have been exploring two digit numbers and enjoying some new story books, and have discovered that their caterpillars are actually moths!

The weekend brings us a plethora of sport—I'm looking forward to the start of the Lions tour in rugby, I know lots of you will be enjoying the football and tennis and some of you will enjoy the whole lot, and some of you may not be even slightly interested! However you spend your weekend, we wish you much peace and rest,

Maria & all the team at St James'



### COVID Update

Please remember to keep your child at home if they show any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

We know that some children experience allergies/hayfever at this time of year, which may lead to coughing. We ask that if your child starts to cough, that you arrange for a COVID test, just in case; likewise, if staff notice a new cough, we will ask you to collect your child from school. We know we might be being ultra-cautious here, but we just want to make sure we can keep everyone safe. Other possible symptoms are shown below—if your child displays any of these, even if your best judgement is that it's not COVID-related, please get it checked out. Thank you!

Symptom	Coronavirus <i>Symptoms can range from mild to severe</i>
Fever	COMMON
Fatigue	SOMETIMES
Cough	COMMON
Loss of taste/smell	COMMON
Sneezing	NO
Aches & pains	SOMETIMES
Runny or stuff nose	RARE
Sore throat	SOMETIMES
Diarrhoea	RARE
Headache	SOMETIMES
Shortness of breath	SOMETIMES

**If your child is told to self-isolate, they must do so for the full 10 days, even if they receive a negative**

Dawn Until Dusk will be running summer holiday clubs at various locations throughout Bedford. They will also be offering free places in conjunction with Bedford Boroughs Holidays, Activities, and Food program.

There will be full-day sessions, 7.30 am-6 pm and limited morning sessions, 7.30 am-1 pm available.

For those who are entitled to the free places through the HAF scheme, session times are 8 am-4 pm for a full-day session and 8.30 am-12.30 pm for a morning session.

The locations are as follows:

Balliol Primary School – w/c 26<sup>th</sup> July to the 6<sup>th</sup> August

Bedford Road Primary School – w/c 9<sup>th</sup> August to the 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Shortstown Primary School – w/c 26<sup>th</sup> July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Great Ouse Academy – w/c 26<sup>th</sup> July to the 20<sup>th</sup> August

Dawn Until Dusk Preschool, Wixams (Under 7's only) – w/c 26<sup>th</sup> July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Dawn Until Dusk will be providing children with breakfast and a hot lunch as well as snacks throughout the day. A packed tea will need to be provided by parents for those staying until 6 pm.

**All bookings are to be made via the website <https://kidsdawntildusk.co.uk/>**

**If you have any queries, please contact the Dawn Until Dusk head office at [info@kidsdawntildusk.co.uk](mailto:info@kidsdawntildusk.co.uk) or 01234 930505.**

**Summer Term Dates Ahead**  
**(COVID restrictions may apply)**

**Y6 Transition Days for secondary schools have been cancelled, and are taking place virtually. Please ensure you know what the arrangements are for your child's school.**

5th July	Y2 Sports Day
6th July	Y1 Sports Day
7th July	Y4 Sports Day
8th July	Y3 Sports Day Science workshops Years 3,4,5
<b>9th July</b>	<b>Y6 Leavers Event 2—see separate letter</b> <b>End of Year Reports sent home via pupils</b>
12th July	Y5 Sports Day
13th July	YR Sports Day <b>Scotability sessions for Years 1 &amp; 2</b>
13th July	Parents evening
14th July	Moving Up morning—time in new classes
15th July	Y6 Sports Day Y2 Art Day with Katie Allen <b>Shadow Puppetry workshop for Years 3 &amp; 4</b>
<b>16th July</b>	<b>Non-uniform day in aid of Making Me charity</b>
19th July	Y6 Leavers Event 3
22nd July	Last day of term

**Please be aware that there may be some changes to events in the final week of term—we will confirm arrangements as soon as we possibly can.**

**Staffing Update**

This week, we have welcomed Mr Connor Gooch to St James' - he will be spending the next 3 weeks with us as part of his induction ready for September. Mrs Alyssa De Luca has also visited this week as part of her induction and will visit again before the end of term; she is joining us as a class teacher, working part time alongside Mrs Corby. Class arrangements will be shared with the children on Friday 9th July, and with you as part of the end of year reports sent home that day.

**Parents Evening—13th July**

Parents' Evenings will be conducted virtually using a new system called School Cloud. The system will allow you book your appointment directly at a time which is convenient, and also allows both parents to join the meeting regardless of where they are, so that teachers do not have to conduct separate meetings for each parent. A letter with full details will be sent home with reports next week. Face to face meetings will not be available, however, for the very small number of parents who do not have internet access at home, telephone conversations can be arranged.

## **Message from Bedfordshire Police—Do not ride electric scooters outside the school.**

I am making contact with you around the very topical, and divisive issue of riding e-scooters.

Bedfordshire police have seen an increase in complaints from members of the public, and local councillors around the use of e-scooters in public. Some of these relating specifically to students riding them to school, or parents riding them whilst carrying small children.

We are therefore asking for the assistance of every school in the borough to share a few key messages with you all, in the hope we can prevent this from continuing and possibly save lives.

### **It is against the law to use e-scooters on public land unless it is part of a government scheme.**

The scheme has various measures in place to maximise the safety of their use, with the long-term view of seeing how they can be incorporated into UK law. At present, Bedford is not part of this trial, and to date there are no plans for us to be part of it in the future. **Therefore riding them in public is illegal.**

We have carried out several local campaigns on social media, which has been shared by local newspapers and we have been proactively stopping riders and providing them with educational literature around riding e-scooters. Our aim has been to educate riders not to use them on public land, as we are well aware some people have genuinely been unaware of the laws around their use. There have also been several e-scooter stories in the national media, featuring on Sky and BBC news in an endeavour to get the message out to as many people as possible.

**As of the 5th July we will be moving out of the educational phase, to one of enforcement when dealing with e-scooters,** hence my contact with you all.

Our plea is this, we really do not want to see any young people affected by this, if they were to be prosecuted they could end up with points on their licence before they even have one and this could really impact them getting a licence later on in their adult life. Points remain on a licence for 3 years, and for insurance reasons they show for 4 years. This means they could apply for a provisional licence and already have points waiting for them, or even worse they could be banned before they even apply for one.

This is something we absolutely want to avoid, so please if your child has an e-scooter don't allow them to ride it on public land. We genuinely do not want them to be prosecuted, and have their expensive equipment seized.

Please remember:

- **It is illegal to ride e-scooters on public land.**
- It is only currently legal to use these on private land with the landowners permission, or in areas running a government scheme. The e scooter however needs to be rented as part of that scheme due to liability insurance.
- **An e-scooter is classed as a motor vehicle and if you ride one in public it has the same expectations on you as it would do when driving a car. i.e. the need to have insurance, MOT, tax etc.**

**If you ride your e-scooter in public you risk having your e-scooter seized, being fined up to £300 and receiving six points on your licence. This will be the case whether you have a licence or not.**

Thank you.

Bedfordshire Police

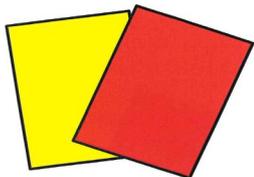
## Cars and their drivers outside school

The vast majority of parents who bring their children to school drive with care and consideration of the pedestrians who are also coming into school, crossing roads and using the school drive. I can not thank you enough for this.

However, sadly, there continue to be a small minority of drivers who display arrogant, selfish and dangerous behaviour when behind the wheel of their car.

I have been made aware of one particularly unpleasant incident where one of our drivers stopped on the school drive, limiting access to the school for one of our youngest pupils and displayed aggressive behaviour towards this child's parent when she quite rightly challenged him about blocking access to school.

I have personally experienced narrow misses when car drivers have come within inches of me whilst standing at the bottom of the drive. Several of us have also spotted some drivers speeding down Main Road and others parking right on the corner of Nodders Way for the sake of convenience, so they don't have to get out of the car and cross their children over the road, and the reversing into the crossing zone. All of these behaviours place your children at risk, and simply put just need to stop. You are behind the wheel of a machine which could seriously harm or kill someone and you need to show some common sense and consideration.



## UEFA European Cup Day

### Menu

*Mount Meatballs  
in  
Barkley Bolognaise*

Or

*Rashford Roasted Vegetables*

*Sterling Spaghetti  
&  
Grealish Garlic Bread*

*Butland Brownies*

8th July  
2021

A new film featuring Marcus Rashford MBE has been launched, calling on parents to sign up their children to the Government's expanded Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF). The film can be accessed here:- [Find out more about the Holiday Activities and Food programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



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