



Thursday 24th June 2021

Dear Family

With COVID infection rates rising again in the local area, I am writing to thank you for your continuing support in keeping our school community safe. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining the use of social distancing and face coverings on collection of children at the end of the school day. The Local Authority have asked that we continue to do everything possible to maintain safety in school, including continuing to encourage all members of the school to get a PCR test should they display any symptoms. You will have seen in the media that the Delta variant displays symptoms that are slightly different to previous strains **such as headaches, sore throats and runny noses**. Should your child present with any of these or other symptoms, we would be very grateful if you would ensure your child self-isolates and gets a PCR test. Test results are being returned very quickly and your child is welcome to return to school following a negative test.

I am very conscious that many people have plans for the beginning of the summer holidays and we will be doing everything possible to ensure that there are as few disruptions as possible to the end of term. Unfortunately, that has meant altering some of our end of year plans, but please be assured that we will be making every effort to ensure that children have a smooth transition to the next year group.

PTFA projects

Our children continue to benefit hugely from the hard work and fundraising by the school's PTFA. I am thrilled to announce two very exciting projects that we will be getting underway over the coming months. The first is that we have secured funding to have an outdoor shelter built in our Forest School area which will provide an outdoor classroom that can be used in all weathers. In addition, a separate fundraising event means that we will be able to renew our pond area. Both projects will really support our outdoor curriculum and children of all ages will be able to benefit from them.

The PTFA have also provided the traffic control resources in the shape and size of children that I am sure that you have noticed on the road outside of school. Road safety is always a big concern to staff and parents and it is our hope that the new signage will be a reminder of the importance of driving and parking with caution in the area around school.

Children continue to benefit from the kind donations of books via the Amazon wish list. It is keeping our selection of books current and it is great to see children reading such a diverse range of literature.

Email: info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk Website: www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk



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Sincere thanks go to all who have been involved in the ideas, the organising, the fundraising and the donations. It really is very much appreciated.

Out of hours clubs

Jan and Shirley will be retiring from their roles at Breakfast and After School clubs at the end of this school year. Jan and Shirley were responsible for starting our wrap around care over twenty years ago and we are very grateful for their dedication to providing this very much appreciated and needed facility. I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs S Brindley, whom your children will know well from her role as lunch time supervisor, will be taking over the running of Out Of Hours clubs supported by Mrs Harris who will be responsible for the administration. This means that we will be able to continue to offer this facility to parents with the time of after school club being extended to 5 30 pm. Further communication will be sent out in due course from the school's Governors, who are responsible for the provision, regarding pricing and contracts for the new school year.

Staffing

Mrs J Noott will be retiring at the end of this school year. Children of St James's have benefitted from Mrs Noott's creativity and magical story telling for nearly 30 years and she will be greatly missed. In addition, Mr D Brindley will also be leaving us at the end of the school year to continue his studies and training to be a teacher. We wish Mr Brindley all the very best and we are very excited that he has chosen to join the teaching profession.

Parent Governor

Thank you to those who voted in our recent Parent Governor election, the results of which are that Lee Salton will be part of the governing body for a second term.

Yours sincerely

L Mason

Mrs L Mason – head teacher

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