



28th January 2021

PARENT BULLETIN

This bulletin will allow us to give updates for parents all in one place. The links will take you to relevant updates/letters for your child's year group or to websites to locate information which you might find useful.

February Half Term update

We have received confirmation from the DfE on Tuesday 26th January that there are currently no plans for schools to be open to any pupils during February half term (15th February – 19th February).

KS2 - Sing 'N' Discover

During the first lockdown, Armonico Consort developed some new ways of working so that they could continue bringing music into schools virtually. One of those initiatives was 'Sing 'N' Shine' workshops – fun, light-hearted singing sessions designed for families to join in with as part of their home-schooling activities.

They have recently announced that they have re-vamped these workshops and will be running them for the next four weeks on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm via their [Youtube](#) channel.

Sing 'N' Discover are music-making sessions aimed at KS2 children to help them explore musical building blocks and learn about instruments, as well as singing some fun, upbeat songs.

Don't worry if you miss the live stream on Wednesdays, they are available on their [Youtube](#) channel should you wish to catch up at a later date!

Pupils attending school part time

A gentle reminder that the timetable for remote learning also reflects the learning which is happening within school. Staff are managing classes in school alongside delivering the live inputs and so children who are spending some of the week working remotely should avoid completing work for subsequent days as they will be working on this in school. Should your child wish to look at extra learning, please visit core learning links on the school website within your child's year group [here](#).

Positivity Paper

You may recall we informed you that following on from the success of the 'Happy Newspaper' in the Summer term that Mrs Hampton has decided to run this again. All children (and parents!) are invited to send in their article to office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk and they will be published on the website [here](#). The article can be about anything, so long as it's positive and could even just be pictures with a few words!

'Gov.uk Stay at Home' guidance

'Stay at Home' guidance details all information around self-isolating protocols [click here](#)

Staffing Update

Mrs Nazerali starts her maternity leave this week and we send her our very best wishes and look forward to hearing baby news!

Restart that Heart!



We are delighted to share with you that we now have our defibrillator situated in the school hall. Our thanks go to a group of parents and staff who very kindly took time to raise £1626.98 by running the 10k Birmingham Running Festival in February last year and fund raising through selling biscuits and collection buckets at the school gates. Please follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tgastjames> to see Mrs Wensley and Mrs Clarke next to the 'defib' and more photos are to follow on our website! Thank you again for those parents and staff who took part and to everyone who supported them!

Solihull School Nursing Service

Please [click here](#) to access the January newsletter from the Nursing Service which provides parents with lots of useful information and contact numbers. You may also access their website at [click here](#)

Final note.....

We know that as the weeks continue that it is becoming increasingly difficult for families to manage the pressures of lockdown, home working and supporting children with remote learning. Some of the staff are also managing home learning with their own children and have great empathy with you! Once again we would like to echo our reassurances that what you are doing is enough, thank you for taking on this additional challenge. It is easy to feel overwhelmed at this time, and it is important that we are forgiving to ourselves. A little kindness to yourself and others, a please or thank you here and there, and a smile (when not hidden behind a mask) go a long way to lift the spirits. Keep safe, and we look forward to welcoming more of you back to school as soon as we are able.

We will continue to keep in contact with parents through this bulletin and hope that this is an easier communication tool with information in one place. We appreciate how easy it is for information to be missed when sending out so many letters. This e-bulletin is also available on our website [click here](#) Please use MCAS (My Child at School) to update us of any email changes and/or contact detail updates.