



Newsletter – Friday 7th May 2021

Dear parents

As you will have heard, a staff member at Tuesday's After School Club tested positive via a routine lateral flow test on Thursday morning. St James' ASC contacted the DfE for advice and as a result all children who attended either session (before or after school on Tuesday) were sent home early yesterday.

Since then, the team at ASC have been working to identify which of the children at either session were close contacts. The staff member did not actually work the morning session so parents of all children who only attended in the morning have been told that their children can stop isolating and return to school.

After careful contact tracing, ASC have now determined that only the Reception and Year 1 bubbles (and a few other individuals) who were at the after school session on Tuesday had close contact with the staff member and will need to isolate for 10 days, returning to school on the 17th May and accessing their learning via Teams until that date. All those affected will receive a letter with more information. All those children in bubbles from Year 2 to 6 (other than the other few individuals who will be contacted) will be able to return to school on Monday.

St James' Afterschool Club (and breakfast club) will be closed until 17th May.

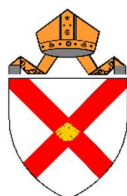
You will appreciate how difficult this was for the school, as we were working on the information we were given. It was challenging for ASC staff to contact all of the parents on the list, which is why office staff here at school began contacting parents. I would like to thank all affected parents for their understanding and their patience yesterday afternoon.

I know you will want to join me in wishing the member of staff a speedy recovery. She is taking a PCR test, and if this is negative, all pupils and ASC staff can end isolation immediately.

The school were told about the positive case just minutes after I had been discussing when and how we could begin relaxing some of the current restrictions and returning more parts of school life to normality. I therefore take full responsibility for this whole incident for tempting fate in such a blatant way and offer my deepest apologies.

Online Safety

I don't know about you, but recently I have realised that I could do with looking up from my phone more often and, now that the world is opening up again, I am trying to make the most of opportunities to spend time away from any screens. But it's not just us adults who spend time online. Attached to this newsletter is a summary of the findings of the Ofcom Children and Parent's Media Use and Attitudes



Report 2020/21 which contains some thought-provoking statistics. It reports that 55% of 5–7-year-olds play online games and 39% of 5–7-year-olds share content online, statistics that were higher than I would have predicted for children of this age. Shockingly, according to this report, only 32% of parents use parental controls built into devices. I would hope that, if our parents were surveyed, this figure would be much higher.

Along with using parental controls, it's important that you encourage an open dialogue with your children about what they spend time doing online and who they interact with. It's really important that your children know that they can speak to someone about anything they're not sure of online. It's crucial that they know they won't be judged or told off for anything they've done; it's far more important to know if they're in danger or worried about something.

Finally, if you haven't already registered for the National Online Safety website, I would encourage you to sign up as the website contains a wealth of up-to-date information about online gaming, relationships, apps and more. It's completely free as our school have a subscription, just follow the link: <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-james-church-of-england-voluntary-aided-primary-school>. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown.

Miss Hayward



Butterflies have arrived in school!

All classes from Reception to Year 5 have 4 caterpillars to watch grow and turn into chrysalis. The caterpillars will remain in the cup and will eat, spin silk and grow to TEN times their original size! After seven to ten days they will hang upside down and harden into chrysalides (chrysalides are also known as pupae). The children are enjoying the opportunity to watch caterpillars change into chrysalides and then emerge as beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies.

Mrs Jones

Early Years

Early Years have started the termly topic last week 'From Countryside to Coast' by arriving to school to find the classrooms decorated in flowers and a letter from 'The Very Greedy Bee,' asking for the reception children to plant some seeds. So, they have been busy planting sunflower seeds so there are enough flowers for all of the other bees and to help The Very Greedy Bee learn to share. Reception have now moved onto vegetables and have continued planting by sowing runner beans and cress seeds.



Mrs Coward



Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

A big well done to all the children for their amazing amount of reading so far this term, both at school and at home. Special congratulations to this week's winners:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Divit in Fox Class	Divit in Fox Class	Osprey Class
996,886 words	47 quizzes	4,086,629 words

Thank you for encouraging your children to read and complete their AR quizzes. Every word counts!

Ms Simpson

Braiswick Photography – Class photos

On Monday 10th May Braiswick photography are coming into school to take class photographs of the children.

Dates for the diary

10 th May	Braiswick Photography in school – Class photos
26 th May	Year 6 visit to Canterbury Cathedral
31 st May – 4 th June	Half term week
7 th June	INSET day
21 st June	Year 6 residential week
29 th June	New reception parents meeting
21 st July	End of term
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day back for children

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
May 2021

