



# St. John's R.C. Primary School

## Keeping In Touch Newsletter 18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds everybody in good health and good spirits.

We have reached the end of the school year, but there is much that has been left unfinished this year. Learning opportunities have been missed, leavers' assemblies have not happened, pupils have not been able to meet their new teachers, and we have all missed our friends.

We have done what we can to minimise the problems caused by the school closure: learning packs were distributed at the beginning of the school closure and online learning has been provided and regularly updated for each year group; we have remained open for the children of keyworkers and for vulnerable children; we have welcomed back small numbers of Y6, Y1 and Reception children; we have sent out an annual report for each child, and have included another work pack for over the summer; and we have tried to keep the business of school running as smoothly as possible during the closure.

One of the most important jobs we have undertaken recently has been to make an assessment of each child's progress this year that is as accurate as possible under the circumstances. Of course, any assessment carried out for this year can only be based on the most recent work that has been completed in school, and for many children this means work done in way back in March. It is extremely important that we have a very clear picture of the learning that each child needs to catch up on, and therefore when we return to school in September we will be administering baseline tests for reading, writing and mathematics. The results of these tests will not be reported and will not form part of any child's official school record; they will simply help us plan how to catch up on the lost learning as quickly and as effectively as possible.

When we return to school in September, we must all remember that the virus has not yet been defeated and therefore we will need to take extra care. We are following the government's guidelines for the September return, and have changed the layout of the classrooms and the timetable for each day. The change that will affect parents the most is the arrangements for dropping off and picking up your child: you in the morning and at home time we will be using three entrances to school - **between 8:40am and 8:50am** year five and year six will come into school through the gate on Ann Street and will be directed onto the 3G football pitch where they will wait to be collected by the class teacher, whilst year three and year four will enter school through the car park gate on Ann Street and will make their way down the ramp and onto the playground where they will wait to be collected by the class teacher; year one and year two will come into school through the Church gate **between 8:40am and 8:50am** and will pass through the nursery gate to wait by the hall to be collected by the class teacher; nursery and reception pupils will enter school through the Church gate **between 8.50am and 9.00am**, and will be directed to the new EYFS entrance. Apart from nursery and reception pupils, we must ask parents to drop **their children off at the school gate and not to enter the school premises in the morning**. At home time parents/carers will be able to enter the school premises to collect their children, using the same entrances as their children do in the morning. Parents/carers will be expected to socially distance whilst on the school premises. We realise that this will cause disruption, especially for parents who have children in more than one year group; if this is the case we ask that parents pick up their youngest child first and then collect any older siblings from the relevant collection point. I realise that this has the potential to be very confusing but please do not worry - we will have signs in place and staff on hand to point you in the right direction. Please see the table on the next page for a simplified version of this information.

Time	Year 5 and Year 6	Year 3 and Year 4	Year 1 and Year 2	Nursery and Reception
8.40am - 8.50am	Enter by Ann St gate and line up on 3G pitch	Enter by car park gate on Ann St and line up on the playground	Enter by church gate and go through the Nursery gate	
8.50am - 9.00am				Enter by church gate and go to new EYFS entrance

From September, class sizes will increase from 10 to a maximum of 30 children. Many of the existing safety measures will continue to be applied along with a few additional measures, these include;

- Children in Key stage ‘bubbles’ will not mix with other children from other ‘bubbles’ in school
- All children will be seated facing forward in class, where possible
- The playground will be zoned off for different key stage ‘Bubbles’.
- Enhanced cleaning routines including hand-washing will continue
- All staff will continue to observe the 2m distancing rule wherever possible.

We will be staggering lunchtimes so that there is a minimum number of children coming into contact with one another to limit the chance of infections being passed on. We would also like to reduce the number of items coming into school from home, and will be offering the opportunity for children who normally bring a packed lunch to have a packed lunch made at school - this will be a healthy lunch and will be cheaper and quicker than buying and making packed lunches at home. For the first half-term, we will be offering packed lunches for £4.00 per week, available to children who would normally bring a lunch from home as well as to those children already on school meals. Full school meals - ie a range of hot meal options - will still be available at the usual price of £11.50 per week, and please remember that every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to free school meals.

Where parents still wish to make lunches and sent them in to school, **these must be in a disposable bag**, with no Tupperware, metal cutlery or any packaging that requires adult assistance e.g. screw top yoghurts, yoghurt tubes etc. **No lunchboxes are to be brought into school** as this will cut down on the chance of infections passing from home to school or from school to home—remember, the virus can live on plastic items for up to 72 hours.

All equipment for lessons will be provided in school, and no items of school equipment should be brought in from home. Reading books should be taken to and from school in a school reading book bag - no other bags must be brought into school, and no other items should be carried in the school reading book bag. Children will keep their reading book bag on their desk and will place their coats on the back of their chairs.

On PE days, children should come into school in PE clothes - eg jogging bottoms, t-shirt and sweatshirt or hoodie along with suitable PE footwear. PE kits should not be brought into school until further notice.

We will be running breakfast club as normal during the autumn term, with the exception that children from different key stages will be separated in the hall and not allowed to ‘mix’. We will **not** be providing after school club during the autumn term.

Although things are starting to get back to ‘normal’, school will still be very different in September. We will continue to update our risk assessment in line with the latest guidance from the government and their scientific advisers, and we will be relying on the patience and understanding of our parents/carers, staff and pupils to get through this safely. I will give you more information as it becomes available, but for now I wish you a safe and peaceful summer and we look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

God bless

Michael Unsworth