

18 September 2020

Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back for the start of another academic year at St Charles'. It has been so wonderful to see all of the children again after such a long time - I am so proud of each and every one of them for the way they have returned to school. Despite the fact that school may look a little different and rules and routines are not what they normally are, the feel of calm and general happiness fills the building. The children have responded fantastically to their new class and teachers; it has been a pleasure to see how quickly they have settled back into school life. Huge credit, of course, goes to our wonderful staff who continue to nurture and care for the children but also to you, the parents and families for reassuring and preparing the children so well for their return. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception class and Nursery class children and their families. Although parents and children were unable to enjoy the usual transition to the school during the summer term, the children have come into school so happily which has been so lovely to see.

Flu Vaccination Programme

Parents from Reception to Year 6 should have received their consent forms direct from the health team. Mrs Phillips in our school office will be sending another copy via email next week in case you have not yet returned your form. Please return to the school office by Monday 28 September and we can forward it to the team.

The flu vaccinations will take place in school on 21 October 2020.

Harvest Festival



The newly elected Mini Vinnies will be collecting longer-lasting items such as coffee, tea, tinned foods, pasta and dried fruit to donate to the People's Kitchen from Thursday 24 September. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

Face Coverings at Drop Off and Pick Up



Thank you all for your support following the systems in place to allow all of the children to enter the school site. After careful consideration, we are requesting adults **wear a face covering** when dropping off and collecting children. With the restraint of the narrow layout on Regent Farm Road, and despite the positive changes we have made, there are still parents gathering, which means social distancing is not fully possible.

Face coverings are not worn inside school, except when indicated in our risk assessment. Staff will wear a face covering when they are not able to communicate with you at a social distance in the playground.

All adults are requested to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting your child.

Nursery Pathway

We have marked out a path around the periphery of the KS2 playground for the Nursery parents to walk in to collect their child. This is on the outskirts of the KS2 playground and is identified by cones and tape. Please **do not** stand in this area when waiting to collect your child as it is for Nursery parents to walk through.

Please remember only one adult should drop off and collect each child and please stand at a 2m social distance from another parent where you can in the playground and wear your face covering.

Please remember to follow the local guidance and we request that families do not gather after school on the Regent Green grass field. Thank you for your co-operation with this in advance.

Collecting Children From School

Please ensure you are on time to collect your child to avoid large numbers of adults on the playground at one time. Some parents have been late and this causes even more parents waiting in the school grounds. We have two collection times. They are as follows: 3pm for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 and 3.10pm for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

School Blogs

The class blogs will be up and running this week on the school website. They are updated every Friday so please do have a look at them to find out the wonderful things that have been happening in school.

New Year Mass

This week, Fr. Bill led a beautiful Mass in school for the children in Year 6 to celebrate the start of our new school year. It was not the same as our whole school celebration with the whole school singing and reading but it was still lovely to gather together after a long time apart.

First Holy Communion 2020 and 2021

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone this year's First Holy Communion Mass planned for the 26 September 2020. I will be meeting with Fr. Bill and Mr. Marley (Head Teacher at St Oswald's Primary School) to discuss options for the current Year 5 pupils and Year 4 pupils to celebrate this sacrament. I will update you as soon as a decision has been made under the current guidance we have to follow.

Changes to PE Arrangements - Children to Come Dressed in PE Kit When They Have PE Lessons

To ensure the safe delivery of the PE curriculum, and in line with Government advice, the vast majority of PE sessions will take place outdoors this term. From Monday, we have also decided, along with a number of schools in Newcastle, to allow children to come into school in their school PE kits on the days they have PE. This will avoid children getting changed in close proximity, mixing up clothes and older children having to move into the school corridor (where boys and girls get changed separately). We are asking for children to arrive in their outdoor PE kits and wear them throughout the day. **Blue tracksuit bottoms/joggers, outdoor trainers, a school PE T-shirt and school jumper/cardigan.** If children would like to wear a pair of shorts underneath their joggers to change into in warmer weather, this would be fine.

Reminder texts will be sent home the night before to remind parents of PE days.

In Early Years, we encourage the physical development of our children as an integral part of their day, every day, therefore the children do not need a PE kit. We give all children in Early Years the opportunity to undertake activities that offer appropriate physical challenge, both indoors and outdoors, using a wide range



of resources to support specific physical skills. In the Spring term, our Reception children will take part in a structured PE lesson when they will then require to come to school in a PE kit but we will inform you of the arrangements at that time.

Birthday Sweets/Cake

Apologies in advance for this next request. We are requesting that children do not bring sweets or cake into school to give to their friends on their birthdays/special occasion. It seems very mean-spirited and a little extreme, but we are trying to reduce the number of things being brought into school and being sent home in an attempt to reduce the possibility of transmission of the Coronavirus. I hope you understand the reasons behind this request.

Drop Off Zone For Morning Drop Off

The car park now has a drop off zone if you would like to drop your child off at school without leaving your car. Thank you for driving slowly, parking in bays and following the school's parking charter.

School Photographs

The school photographer, Paul Gemmell, will be in school on Wednesday 30 September to take photographs of all the children. These are only for individual pupils only as unfortunately we cannot accommodate siblings this year.

Home Learning and Schools Digital Learning Platform

If your child is well but is unable to attend school due to being in isolation for 14 days, we are currently developing a section on our school website where they can access learning for their year group. We are developing a tiered approach to home learning to support children who are not in school.

1. A **quarantine 'Isolation Education' pack** for all children who have to go into isolation will be available to download via email and/or paper copies can be sent out to your home. This will be a combination of Oak Academy, White Rose Hub home learning, website links and tasks linked to current year group curriculums.
2. A **Teams Digital Platform**. Microsoft Teams has developed a virtual online platform providing an interactive online classroom with virtual face-to-face connections with the teacher to keep classrooms and lessons connected. We are currently developing this digital platform in our school.

If you are eligible for Free School Meals and do not have internet access at home please contact the school office should your child need to work from home.

Nursery Arrangements From Week Commencing 21 September 2020

You can enter the site from **8.45am - 9am** and walk your Nursery child around to the Nursery outside area. We do request you wear a face covering to do this. You can collect your child at **3.10pm** by walking around the KS2 yard in the allocated coned pathway to collect them from the Nursery outdoor area.

Uniform

Just a reminder we do not have storage for large bags.

Children in Key Stage 2 should only be bringing in a small back pack or bag to carry a homework book, reading book and water bottle.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 book bags



Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 back packs



If you are purchasing your own back pack bag for a Key Stage 2 child, please ensure they are small. Your child needs to fit their coat on their peg.

School Meals

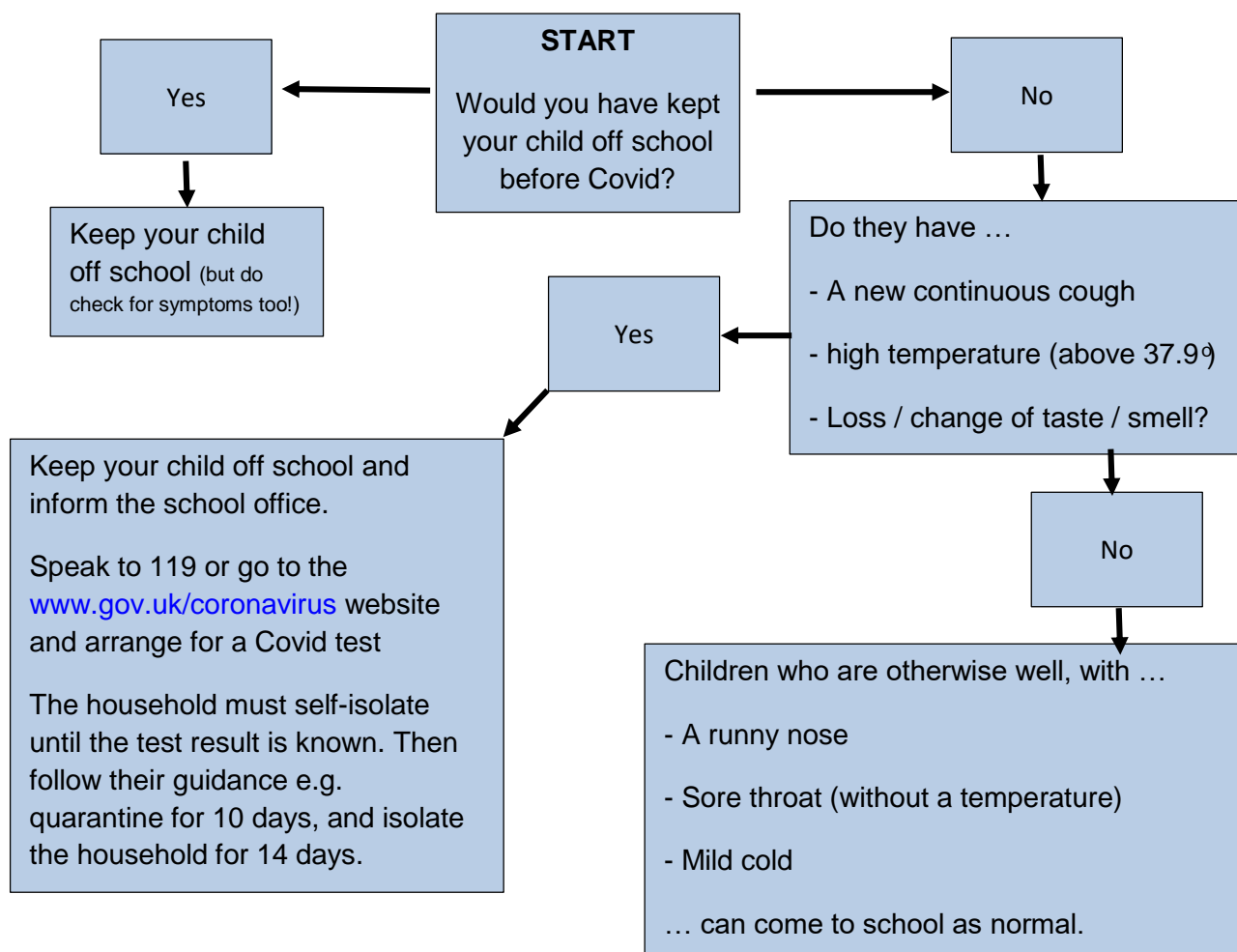
Currently only children in Nursery and Reception classes are offered hot meals due to only being able to have one class bubble in the hall for lunch at a time. We are working with the Local Authority to see if the number of classes receiving hot food can increase. The kitchen staff are still making packed lunches for children in Years 1 and 2 as they are entitled to Free Universal Infant School Meals. The kitchen staff can also make packed lunches (charged at £11.50 per week) for other year groups if required.

Parent Telephone Consultations

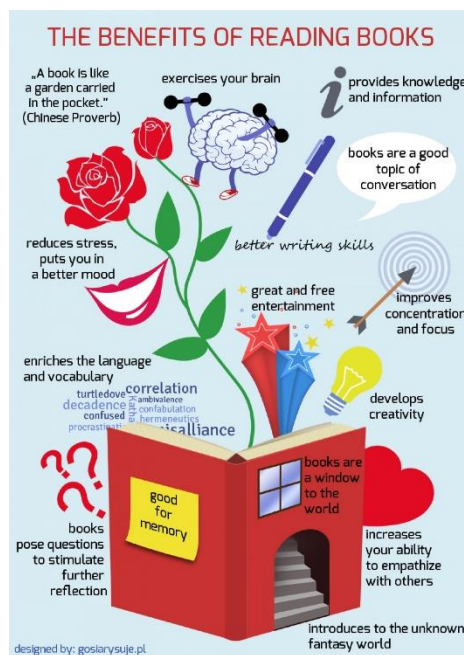
Telephone consultations will take place during week commencing 12 October. Details to follow.

Absences From School

This week we have seen an increase in children being absent from school due to cold symptoms. We thought a flowchart may make things a bit easier to help you make a decision of what to do if your child is feeling unwell and should come to school or not. Most of these initial decisions will lie with you, of course, as only you know if your child would be well enough for school, but these are uncharted times.



Reading Books



We have purchased Oxford Reading Tree E book library to give your child access to online books to support reading at home. This will give your child access to over 550 online books they can read at home. More information to follow as soon as it is available.

Reading books will be sent home from week commencing 21 September. We recommend not touching the books and leaving them in your child's school bag for 48 hours or clean them before use. We will ensure the returned books have been stored in school before they are placed back into the reading scheme.

We do encourage all children to read daily.



Diary Dates for Autumn term 2020-2021

September 2020		
21.9.20	Whole School	Recycle Week – Children will be involved in a class assembly.
24.9.20	Whole School	Tin donations for Harvest Festival welcome from today. Donations will be given to the People's kitchen.
28.9.20	Whole School	Return completed flu vaccination forms to School
28.9.20	Whole School	Bike to school week.
30.9.20	Whole School	School Photographer will be in school. Individual photographs only this year.
October 2020		
21.10.20	Reception - Year 6	Flu vaccinations for those children who we have received completed forms for by 28.9.20 or for those who have already completed a form directly with school health.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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