

# Stedham Primary School Newsletter

30.09.2020

## Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our second newsletter of this autumn term. I hope you find the following information and updates useful.

### Contact details

Many thanks to all those parents who have completed and returned the new contact forms. If you haven't yet handed yours in, please return it this week.

It is crucial that we hold up to date contact information for all our families as this will be our main method of communicating over the coming weeks. If your child is ill at school, we will need to get in touch with you as a matter of urgency – not having correct details could put your child and others at risk. Thank you for your support with this.

### NHS Test and Trace letter / Letter from West Sussex (Covid-19 information for parents and carers)

Along with this newsletter, I have sent out two further letters. Both of these letters should give you more 'essential information' about what to do: if your child has Covid-19 symptoms, if your child tests positive for Covid-19, if somebody in your child's household has Covid-19 symptoms or if somebody in your child's household tests positive for Covid-19.

### Forest School updates

We are now in the process of finalising a new Forest School Provider following Elaine Parkin's news that she is unable to lead Forest School this year. We have had three excellent providers express their interest in leading our Forest School. We are very excited about this and hope to be delivering sessions to the first class in the next couple of weeks.

### Goodbye Summer ... Hello Autumn (Be prepared)

After enjoying the lovely sunshine this summer, we now turn our thoughts to Autumn. At Stedham, we believe that being outdoors improves pupil well-being and helps them to focus and concentrate better on their learning. We will continue to take every opportunity to be outdoors and politely remind parents to ensure that children come to school with appropriate clothing. This should include a jumper and a coat.

### Pupil Surveys

Many thanks to all those that supported their children in completing the 'Pupil Well-being' survey. The response was quite good at just over 50% received. The results will be shared with staff next week and our 'Relationship and Health Education' will be adjusted accordingly. We sincerely hope that all of our children will benefit from the targeted emotional support that the staff will provide.

Following the interruptions to their learning last year (and the stresses that came with lockdown), we are aware that we still have a few children who struggle with their emotions and anxiety as they return to full-time education. We hope, that by letting children talk about their emotions and worries, that they will realise that they are not alone and that staff are here to nurture and support them at this difficult time.

## **Assessments**

It is no surprise that, having missed a significant part of the academic year, that children's attainment and progress has slipped. Even with the learning packs sent home throughout lockdown, we feel that many of our pupils may not have made the progress we would have expected had they been at school.

Teachers have recently carried out a formal assessment in reading, maths and spellings in order to create a new baseline. The children applied themselves fantastically well throughout which reflects the 'no pressure' approach that teachers have taken.

With a new baseline, we'll be able to target our teaching and interventions to plug the gaps that have been identified. Some children may also receive further interventions as part of the 'Catch-Up Premium'.

## **Parking outside of the school**

We politely remind parents to avoid parking directly opposite the school entrance. We appreciate that this allows for a speedy 'drop off and go' but this does, however, limit the space available for other cars to pass and more importantly compromises the safety of those on foot. In the interest of all of the Stedham community, we kindly ask that this situation is avoided in the future.

## **Start of the school day**

We continue to be impressed by parent's understanding of the need to keep 2 metre distancing whilst dropping children off at the start of the day. Please keep this up. It demonstrates a sense of responsibility to the greater community which is fantastic for the children to see.

Following the guidance from our risk assessment, the children responded very well to the instruction to only enter the school gates when beckoned by the teacher. This, unfortunately, has started to slip. Please can you help us to avoid the 'bottle neck' situation at the gate by allowing your child to only enter once signalled by the teacher. Many thanks for your support with this.

## **ClassDojo**

ClassDojo continues to be an excellent way for teachers to communicate with parents and vice versa. Points to note:

- Teachers will check and action messages between 15:30 and 17:30
- Do not notify absence via ClassDojo. This should always go through the office.

## Is my child too ill for school?

We have had a number of children who have been kept off school with cold symptoms, when perhaps they would ordinarily have come to school. We do understand why families are making this decision and appreciate that it can be tricky when deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

If however, your child does not have a temperature, a new continuous cough or loss of taste and/or smell, then they are fine to attend. There are government guidelines for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. We hope that the guidance given below, taken from the NHS, will make this decision much easier:

[www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

Please remember, that if you do keep your child at home, it is important to phone the office on the first day to let them know and to give a reason for absence.

### Coronavirus:

**If your child displays any of the following symptoms, keep your child off school and book a test:**

- **A high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
- **A new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **A loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal

Get advice about coronavirus symptoms and what to do:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)

### Fever:

If your child has a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes away.

### Sore throat:

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.

### Vomiting and diarrhoea:

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

*This NHS link goes on to make recommendations about whether your child is too ill for school if they suffer from other illnesses such as chickenpox, cold sores, conjunctivitis, ear infection, hand, foot and mouth disease, head lice and nits, impetigo, ringworm, scarlet fever, slapped cheek syndrome and threadworms.*