



St. Oswald's R.C. Primary School



Hartford Road, Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5LE
Tyneside (0191) 285 2437

Mr P Marley
Headteacher

Email: admin@stoswalds.newcastle.sch.uk
www.stoswalds.newcastle.sch.uk

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ

12th March 2021

Dear families,

I would like to begin by saying how delighted we all are at the way the children have returned to school this week. I am really proud of how they have come back so positively and with such enthusiasm – they have settled into school life so quickly which has been an absolute pleasure to see.

The fact that the children and staff were all so happy to be back together again on Monday was such a lovely reminder of what a special place school is for everyone.

Drop-off and Pick up Requests

I have been asked by the Local Authority to remind families about the importance of following COVID-19 safety measures at drop-off and pick up times. Although cases in Newcastle are falling, there are concerns there could be an increase in community infection rates at these times of the day due to more people interacting.

With this in mind, can I please ask that parents take advantage of the 10 minute arrival and departure slots for their child's class to avoid any issues regarding social distancing at the beginning and end of the day. Some children have been arriving at school up to 30 minutes early this week which inevitably leads to congregation and mixing of year groups.

Class teachers will not start any teaching before the end of each arrival time so your child will not be missing out on any learning by arriving towards the end of their time slot. Teachers will also emphasise to children that they are not late if they come in within this time period.

As a reminder, please find the start/end times for all classes below:

<u>Reception:</u>	Start: 8:30am – 8:40am	Finish 2:50pm-3:00pm
<u>Year 1:</u>	Start: 8:40am – 8:50am	Finish 3:00pm-3:10pm
<u>Year 2:</u>	Start: 8:30am – 8:40am	Finish 2:50pm-3:00pm
<u>Year 3:</u>	Start: 8:40am – 8:50am	Finish 3:00pm-3:10pm
<u>Year 4:</u>	Start: 8:30am – 8:40am	Finish 2:50pm-3:00pm
<u>Year 5:</u>	Start: 8:40am – 8:50am	Finish 3:00pm-3:10pm
<u>Year 6:</u>	Start: 8:30am – 8:40am	Finish 2:50pm-3:00pm



We also now recommend that face coverings should be worn by all adults when dropping off and collecting children at the beginning and end of each day unless they are exempt to do so.

Please wait with your child until they have entered the school (children should not play with other children on the playground or in any area around school while waiting to enter or when leaving the premises).

All children and parents should leave the school site as soon as possible after drop-off and at the end of the school day.

I appreciate that the above requests are not how we would normally like to operate, but in order to comply with the restrictions we find ourselves in, your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks in advance with this.

Parents' Evening Appointments

As you know, we usually have a Parents' Consultation Evening before we break up for the Easter holidays. However, as it would be quite soon after the children have just returned to school, we have decided it would be more beneficial to arrange it this year for after Easter. Children will have been back in school longer and staff will be able to give a more accurate reflection of where they are in their learning. If, however, you feel you would like to speak to your child's class teacher earlier than this, you are very welcome to give them a call or get in touch via the class email. As we won't be able to meet in person, we plan to hold the meetings online via an application called 'schoolcloud'. This is like a Zoom call but it cuts the meeting off after 10 minutes so it prevents over-running and appointments being delayed. More details will follow.

Class Residentials, 2021

Unfortunately, but probably unsurprisingly, there will be no Residential visits this summer. We had dates provisionally booked in for the Year 4 trip to Hawkhurst, the Year 5 trip to Keswick and the Year 6 trip to Borrowdale. However, it has been confirmed by the providers this week that due to current advice and restrictions, the visits are unable to take place. The staff are as disappointed as the children will be as it is always a fantastic experience for us all. We hope to be able to organise something for Year 6 towards the end of the summer term – a day trip somewhere may be possible if restrictions allow it.

Safeguarding/Wellbeing Survey

Last week, I asked anyone who had concerns about their child returning to school to complete a short survey. Thank you to those who have already done so. You may want to inform us of any changes in their lives that have impacted them over the last couple of months that would be useful during their re-integration into school. If so, please follow the link [HERE](#).

Home Learning Survey

Yesterday, I sent you an email with a link requesting you to share your views on our Home Learning provision during the latest school closure. If you would like to do so, please follow the link [HERE](#).

Both surveys will close on Friday 19th March after which any information should be shared via the school office or class email. Thank you again for your support with this.

Symptoms of COVID-19

A reminder that if your child or any member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them into school. They should only return when a negative test result for those displaying symptoms has been confirmed or at the end of an isolation period following a positive test result.

If any child in school **tests positive**, please inform school as soon as possible. If a child tests positive over the weekend, please could you inform school via the school email address: **admin@stoswalds.newcastle.sch.uk** as soon as possible. This inbox will continue to be checked at weekends.

We will need to have this information in case the child has been in close contact with any staff or classmates resulting in them possibly having to self-isolate.

The latest guidance and advice can be found in the COVID-19 section of the school website.

With my very best wishes,



Mr Marley