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Coronavirus Update #17

26th June 2020

Dear Parents,

This week, we have started welcoming back children who haven't been in school since March. It's been lovely to see these familiar faces back with their friends; some whom already look like they've been in a grow bag for the past 14 weeks.

We started with the return of Year 6 as they gathered for their leavers' barbeques on Monday and Tuesday. Sadly they weren't altogether as a group of 60. Instead they joined a group of 15 for a half day of games, music and catching-up on the field. Many of them wore their take-away St Margaret's hoodies and all left us with a special Leavers' Book full of photos and special memories. They also contributed to a moving leavers' film with individual recordings combined with photos and memories put to music. So although there has been no end-of-year performance, they have still had a special send-off. We wish them all the best for their next adventure at secondary school. They certainly had a unique final year and will go down in the history books as the memorable class of 2020.

Thank you to the Year 6 staff who helped to create this special ending for the children and thanks also to the family members of the staff who helped with the above film. Thanks to Mr West for volunteering his time to run the barbeque.

In the second part of the week, we welcomed back Year 2s in small groups who haven't been in school since March to meet their new Year 3 teachers: Mr Tullier on Wednesday and Thursday, and Miss Pritchard today. Next week we look forward to seeing Miss Pritchard's second group of new Year 3s on Monday. Then on Tuesday and Wednesday, Mrs Kerswell will be in to meet her new Year 5s while Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Bindon will be in on Thursday and Friday to meet their new Year 5s.

If you are not sure about the times and dates for any of the transition taster days, please do contact the office who will be happy to help.

Just a reminder that for those children who are already in school as part of the key worker / vulnerable groups, transition taster days will take place with their new teachers when they are on the school rota to work. So please don't worry if your child hasn't had a specific invite because they are all scheduled to meet their new teacher at some point before the summer. This includes the current Reception and Year 1 children whose new teachers will be joining them for a day before the summer holiday.

This week some teachers started their livestreaming assemblies as another way of keeping in touch. It sounds like the children and staff enjoyed being able to interact with each other again and there are some interesting assemblies planned for next week with some children wearing a special hat for sharing and fun.

Please remember to help us when livestreaming by adhering to the following:

- Access links should not be made public or shared by participants.
- Encourage learners to attend sessions in a shared/communal space or room with an open door and/or when appropriately supervised by a parent/carer or another appropriate adult.
- The session will not be recorded without prior agreement with the member of staff

If you need any support with this or any other IT related issue, our IT help desk is open 9.30 – 11.30 Monday to Friday. Please email ithelp@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk and one of the IT help team will get back to you.

Communication

I'm aware there is a huge amount of information coming your way at the moment with so much going on nationally, locally, at school and at home. For clarity of communication from school, this weekly letter is a useful first point of information. It can be found on the home page of the website *and* under our *coronavirus updates* on the *well-being in action* page.

There is also lots of information on our *LET'S SMILE* page and *HOME LEARNING* page. For example, the weekly newsletters can be found under *LET'S SMILE* for you to share with your children who can then see pictures and stories about their friends as another way of keeping in touch.

To help us with future plans, we would be really grateful if you could complete this short survey about your experiences during lockdown: <https://forms.gle/KKXtBVaTVp8W3rCj6>

End of Year Reports

Teachers have finished writing your children's reports. Mrs Pike and I are currently busy reading them through in time for you to receive them from Thursday next week. Please see

the below arrangements which will allow us to get them to you in a timely, suitably social distanced manner and save on postage.

Date and Time	Arrangements for Classes or Year Groups
Thursday 2.7.20 10.00 – 2.30	Ash Class and Pine Class reports are available for collection from the office during these times.
Thursday 2.7.20	Any child in school on this day will have their report sent home with them at the end of the school day.
Friday 3.7.20 10.00 – 12.00	Reports for any Year 5 and Year 6 who were not in yesterday are available for collection from the office during these times.
Friday 3.7.20 12.30 – 2.30	Reports for any Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 who were not in yesterday are available for collection from the office during these times.
Friday 3.7.20 3.00pm	Any reports still left in the office at this time will be posted home.

Staying Safe

Updated and useful guidance was published this week on how to help keep your child safe online. As parents, this is often a complex issue to get our heads round and to understand how our children use the internet so I would highly recommend this document for reading (click the link below). I know I've spoken to some parents already about these concerns so this will help and please remember that our website home page contains a regularly refreshed update on all issues related to this. The below information has also been updated on our website under *Supporting Families*. Click [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online#apps-to-help-children-stay-safe-online>

Forest School

You might be aware that our Forest School is back up and running with different groups benefiting from this on different days. **On Tuesday 30th next week, the Year 4 key worker / vulnerable pupil group will have a day of Forest School.** If your child is in this group, please remember to send them in with the right clothing as they will be outside rain or shine. If you want some Forest School ideas for home, check out these links which include craft activities for adults to complete with children (usually based around nature or natural products), sensory play ideas and ways to enhance your family walks amongst other suggestions:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQRVYUXSOAgOUtB0CfcJdcQ>

<https://www.facebook.com/OrchardForestSchool/>

Plans for Summer and September

There is a lot of speculation in the media currently about summer holidays and plans for September. We are waiting for confirmed details from the government due on Tuesday 30th June. It is currently my understanding that school will be closed over the summer holidays and that we will open for all pupils in September. I aim to let you know the exact plans in next Friday's letter.

One piece of confirmed news is that children who are clinically extremely vulnerable will be able to return in September.

Reminder about Classes for Next Year

Class of 2019-2020	Class of 2020-2021
Reception – Ash (Mrs Russell)	Year 1 – Beech (Mrs Tandy)
Reception – Elm (Miss Watkinson)	Year 1 – Pine (Mrs Morgan & Mrs Posey)
Year 1 – Beech (Mrs Tandy)	Year 2 – Apple (Mrs Turner)
Year 1 – Pine (Mrs Morgan & Mrs Wall)	Year 2 – Oak (Mrs Rice)
Year 2 – Apple (Mrs Turner)	Year split in Year 3 to either Birch (Miss Pritchard) or Rowan (Mr Tullier) - letter
Year 2 – Oak (Mrs Rice)	
Year 3 – Birch (Miss Pritchard)	Year 4 – Hazel (Mr Robinson)
Year 3 – Rowan (Mr Tullier)	Year 4 – Cherry (Mrs Wall)
Year 4 – Cherry (Mrs Wall & Mrs Bindon)	Year 5 – Holly (Mrs Kennedy & Mrs Bindon)
Year 4 – Maple (Miss Palfrey)	Year 5 – Willow (Mrs Kerswell)
Year 5 – Holly (Mrs Kennedy & Mrs Kerswell)	Year 6 – Maple (Miss Wooldridge)
Year 5 – Willow (Mr Robinson)	Year 6 – Hawthorn (Mr Marchant)

Reminder about Drop-off and Collection Times

Group	Drop off	Collection
Reception	8:55-9:10am car park	2:45pm car park
Y1	8:55-9:05am front slope	2:45pm front slope
Key Worker children and vulnerable pupils	8:45-8:55am front slope	3.00pm front slope for Y2 3:05pm front slope
Taster transition groups	9:05-9:15am front Slope	2:55pm front slope

Reminder of Reception and Year 1 Opening

	June												July							
	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10
Ash	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Elm				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Pine	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Beech				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

Test and Trace

For the latest information on *test and trace*, follow the link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youre-contacted-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus/>

Covid-19 – **Stay Alert**

The key message is still to **stay alert** which means you must stay at home as much as possible, work from home if you can, limit contact with other people, keep at least 2 metres apart from others if you go out and wash your hands regularly.

The message about symptoms now includes a loss of taste or smell as well as having a new and continuous cough or a high temperature. In this case stay at home for 7 days if you live alone, stay at home for 14 days if you live with others, including all household members. Only use NHS 111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after isolation. Guidance on what to do while staying at home if you have suspected coronavirus can be found here by clicking this link to the [NHS website](#).

The most up to date guidance for parents can still be accessed via this link and it includes lots of questions and answers that you might find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Department for Education helpline for parents - phone: 0800 046 8687,
Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk, opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Updates on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For games and resources about good hygiene and bugs, try the e-bug website which is being run in conjunction with Public Health England. [Click here](#).

Updated handwashing advice, including video, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Very best wishes to you and your families,



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)