

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE PRAE ROAD, CHERTSEY, SURREY KT16 8ET

Tel: 01932 562251 / 562366

e-mail: office@stannes-chertsey.surrey.sch.uk

www.stannescps.eschools.co.uk

Leanne M Harris B.A. (Hons)

Headteacher



20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Another busy and eventful week has passed both in the life of the school and the wider world. This week we have been exploring the important issue of anti-bullying and it was great to see so many people wearing their odd socks on Monday to highlight this important issue. The children have been doing a wealth of work around this topic please look out for this on E-schools so that you can further reinforce this at home. Thank you to Ms Dimech for leading the school on this.

Remote Learning

Miss Green is in daily touch with me to let me know how 3 Monet are getting on with their remote learning. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join the zoom meeting with many of the children on Monday morning. These children will certainly grow up as flexible learners which has so many positives later in life. When the class re-join us next Wednesday I will be asking for their views so that we can continue to improve our systems. It is a learning curve for everyone and as technical issues arise we are straight onto our helpdesk to sort things out. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this. After the first lockdown we sat down and planned how we could improve remote learning and there have been a few fundamental changes since then. These include, the zoom meetings on a Monday morning to welcome the weeks learning, zoom for pupils to contact the teacher during English and Maths sessions and an even more robust timetable to imitate the learning at home as much as it would be in class. We know it will never be exactly the same but we are certainly trying our very best.

Accessing E-Schools

It is imperative to be familiar with our learning platform, E-schools. Staff have informed me that in some Year groups parents are not accessing key information that is put on there. To help your child be as happy and successful at St. Anne's we must work together to ensure they have and know what is needed.

I believe several Reception children did not have the relevant things for their dress up day last week. This can be very upsetting for children. If there are any reasons why you cannot access information or need financial support, please contact the school. We are always here to support you.

Curriculum Updates

I am incredibly proud to say that we have maintained the interesting, varied and rigorous curriculum for our children despite all of the challenges that we have all faced since September. With your support, we continue to close the gaps in knowledge that came as a result of the lockdown and changes that the

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children have encountered. The second round of catch up groups begin next week which for many pupils has proved very beneficial. I have had the opportunity to take a few of these sessions and thoroughly enjoyed them. I must stress though that unless it is for illness, if your child does not attend, their place will be given to another child.

Changes since September

There are a few aspects of our new way of working that are proving to be very effective and we will consider keeping. For the children in Years 1-6, sitting in rows has had a really positive impact on keeping them focused. We will in the future consider continuing with this at times as well as working in groups when we are allowed to.

We now mark the children's work primarily through whole class sheets that are recorded by the teachers. This then informs the teachers about the next steps for pupils and gives an overall picture of learning for the class. Feedback for children is far more effective when it is immediate and verbal. Over the years, I have always felt passionately about this as I do not believe that writing reams in a child's book has an impact on learning. A mind-set change is needed, as we can believe a good book is where there are lots of teacher comments but research and experience would say differently.

Christmas

Class teachers will be in touch with a date when their Christmas celebrations will be uploaded onto E-schools. Please keep a look-out for this.

Christmas Winter Wonderland

As we cannot celebrate Christmas the usual way this year, we have come up with some extra special Covid Christmas ideas with the pupil, parent champions.

On Tuesday 1st December, a virtual message from Father Christmas will be sent to the children in every class and on E-schools. He is launching a competition for children to design a Winter Wonderland at the front of the school. The winning design will have their ideas put up in our 'Winter Wonderland' gazebo that we hope to have up for the whole of December. Classes will be able to go and visit during the month so we can spread out the joy and build-up of Christmas. More details to follow.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be on **Wednesday 16th December** for the whole school. If you would like to order a Christmas lunch for your child, please do so before **Thursday, 10th December via SCOPAY**, to give enough time for accurate numbers to be passed to the catering staff. The cost for a school dinner (KS2 only) is £2.40. **Please note that school lunch accounts for KS2 will need to be in credit before ordering a meal online.**

On this day, the whole school community are invited to wear a festive jumper. The afternoon will be given to Christmas activities in class. Again, teachers will be in touch with more details.

Raising Funds

Covid has hit school budgets really hard and we are always trying to find ways to raise more money. Huge thanks to those of you that have already registered for the free to use easyfundraising page. If you have not already done so, we would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to register at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stannescatholicpschertsey/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

Also, many other local schools have trialled very successfully, 'movie nights' where children attend, have refreshments but remain in bubbles. Numbers will, of course, be limited, but if this proves a success, we may be able to host more evenings like this! I am looking into this so further details will follow in due course. Everyone loves a Christmas movie!

Mr Selley Football Sessions

These sessions will continue with Years 3 and 5 until Christmas and then Years 4 and 6 are invited to take part. A letter will be issued nearer the end of term.

Staff Parking Area

The car park at the front of the school is a designated staff parking area so please do not park and drop off your child in this area. Recently, two staff cars have been damaged and children walk into school through this area. During peak times parents should only be driving into school to use the drop-off zone. If you need to park in the school at other times for Breakfast Club, After School Club or Catch-up Groups there is ample space to park in the rest of the car park. Thank you kindly.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

God Bless.



MRS MURPHY
Acting Head Teacher



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