



**'Working together to succeed, through faith in Jesus Christ'**

**Weekly Newsletter: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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**Welcome Back!**

*We are so delighted to welcome our children and families back to school after the summer break and these unprecedented times. It was fantastic to see everyone yesterday and have our school buzzing again with full classrooms, laughter and chatter. Thank you all for your support in following our new guidance, systems and routines, it may feel slightly strange now but will hopefully feel normal soon. Our aim is to support our children back into school over the coming days and weeks building their confidence, supporting their well-being and bringing back normal routines and activities as part of our broad and balanced curriculum.*

*Please bear with us as we regularly review and refine our plans to make sure we create a safe, happy environment for our whole school community - you will be updated with any changes so please make sure you subscribe to our school app and we have your up to date telephone number so text messages can be sent. Please check the school website for updates too.*

Best wishes,

**Mr. Hatton**

# School News...

## Welcome to St. Stephen's

We extend a very warm welcome to our new starters in our Reception Class and their families. The staff and I were so proud of how grown up the children were entering school for the first time yesterday with no fuss or tears! The children quickly settled in class and enjoyed getting to know one another and playing. It was lovely to welcome our new families to school and we hope the transition for your little one into St. Stephen's is a smooth and happy one and that we continue to work in partnership together as school and home for the good of your child on their personal and academic journey over the next seven years.

We also welcome some new members to our staff team. Miss Boardman joins us as our Year 1 class teacher and Miss Williams is our new Year 3 teacher. They are both excellent additions to our school family and I am sure our children and families will make them feel very welcome and at home at St. Stephen's.

## Pick Up Zones

To aid the smooth handover at the end of the school day we ask that parents/carers collect their children between 2.45-3.00pm. Please queue up in a socially distanced manner along the school fence on Sandy Lane until the school gates open at 2.45pm. When waiting on the playground for your child to be dismissed to you, please wait in the following zones and maintain social distance:

- Reception:** Yellow cone area on KS1 playground
- Year 1:** White cone area on KS1 playground
- Year 2:** Blue cone area on KS1 playground
- Year 3:** KS2 playground on and around the game markings near to the agility trail
- Year 4:** Inside the football pitch area
- Years 5 & 6:** Along the fenced area opposite the Year 5 & 6 classrooms.

***Please don't line up in these spaces but spread out to avoid queues.***

***Please remember only one adult is permitted on the yard per child.***

***Any children in Y5 or Y6 who walk home alone will remain in school until 3pm.***

### PE Days

As of next week (week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September), the following classes will have PE on the following days and pupils must wear the correct PE kit to school including trainers:

- Monday:** Year 3
  - Tuesday:** Year 5 and Year 6
  - Wednesday:** Year 1 and Year 2
  - Friday:** Year 3 and Year 4
- (Y3 will have two PE lessons this term)

Reception Class will have their PE lesson on a Monday as of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September on their first full day in school and should wear their PE kit to school that day.

### Y6 Residential

Further to the details sent home via newsletters and the school website over the summer term, the residential trip to Kingswood has been moved from September to 24-26 March 2021.

***As outlined in the summer term, the payment plan has changed in light of this and the next instalment of £75.00 is due by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.***

This can be sent into school in a sealed envelope with your child's payment card which will act as a receipt. The final instalment of £75.00 for the trip is due by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### Letters/Forms

To reduce the amount of paper sent home and in the interests of health and safety at the moment all forms and surveys will be sent home via Parentapp. Please complete any forms that you are notified of and return to school ASAP and your child's records will be updated.

**Years 5/6:** Please complete the walking to/from school form by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, if you haven't done so already.

**Years 1-6:** Photograph consent form to be completed by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, if you haven't done so already.

### Homework

All homework for this term will be set by class teachers on Tapestry (Reception and Year 1) and Seesaw (Years 1-6.) Please ensure that your child completes any tasks set. Staff will ensure that all tasks have clear instructions to help you support your child at home.

### Stranger Danger

We advise all of our parents/carers to monitor their child's Internet activity as we have been informed of a situation where a pupil has been targeted by an unknown adult online. Please remind your child about Internet safety and engaging in chats/games with unknown people.

### Parent Governor

Before lockdown, we advertised for a parent governor to join our governing body. The closing date for this role has been extended to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact the school office for more details if you are interested.

## **Please see below a message from Public Health that we have been asked to share with our parents/carers:**

“We been alerted to these very troubling messages and can understand why they would they would be alarming for any parent or carer.

“The Coronavirus Act is very clear that we can only screen or assess a child for COVID-19 in the presence of their carer, parent or guardian.

“For most people, children and parents will be asked to isolate at home as a family for 14 days if required. If, for any reason, this isn’t possible, alternative arrangements will always be discussed with the parents or guardians.

“If your child displays symptoms it is very important that they get a test and that they do not go to school or nursery so that they don’t make any other children unwell. If they become unwell at school, you will be contacted, asked to remove them from school and advised to take them for a test.”

*Please see below further detail to clarify the powers contained within the Coronavirus Act.*

- The vast majority of the public are abiding by the government’s public health advice if they suspect that they have coronavirus symptoms and we thank them for their efforts in stopping the spread of this terrible disease.
- The powers set out in the Coronavirus Act to impose proportionate requirements on anyone who is it suspected has coronavirus and are not complying with public health advice voluntarily are to be used only by Public Health Officials and only as a last resort.
- These powers may only be exercised if it is considered necessary and proportionate to do so in the interests of the person, for the protection of other people, or for the maintenance of public health.
- The DfE has made very clear that any child or young adult who is displaying coronavirus symptoms must not attend their educational settings and their family must follow the public health advice to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a child is symptomatic during school hours, it is important that the parent or legal guardian is contacted with urgency and emergency contacts can be used in the same way that they would inform them of any emergency medical procedure needed while the child is attending/in the care of an educational setting.
- There must also be facilities with the school grounds where a child can self-isolate until the child is picked up i.e. the health care room. If the child’s condition deteriorates during this period, it is important the NHS is called and they will advise on the appropriate procedures.
- It is not true that Public Health Officials have the power to screen and assess without a parent or carer present. Public Health Official’s power to screen and assess can only be exercised in the presence of an individual with responsibility for the child, the responsible adult under Schedule 21 is a person with parental responsibility for the child or a person who has custody or charge of the child for the time being within the meaning of the Children Act 1989.
- Public Health Officers will make the appropriate assessment and restrictions will be placed accordingly. Under these powers they could be asked to self-isolate with their families at home for up to 14 days to stop the spread of coronavirus if they are not voluntarily complying with the public health advice. If the individual is unable to self-isolate at home this will need to be discussed with the Public Health Officer and alternatives discussed.
- If the guardian/parent feels that restrictions imposed on the child is unfair, he or she will be able to proceed with the right to appeal to the magistrate's court.