

# St John's C.E. Primary School

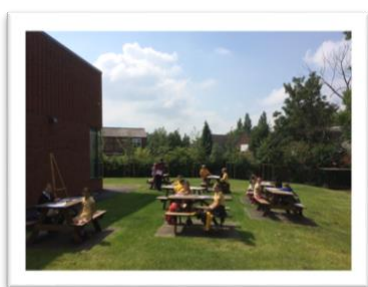
- high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER June 2020

We hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe.

Thank you to everyone who has sent kind messages of thanks and support in recognition of the challenges that schools are currently facing. It means a lot!



We fully acknowledge that this has been a very challenging and difficult situation for the entire St. John's community, but are very proud of the many different ways that everyone has pulled together to manage these unprecedented times.

Steps taken have included:

- Home learning: set up and monitoring
- Weekly Awards identified and shared remotely
- First steps transition for new reception parents developed, including a remote coffee afternoon and check ins with EYFS lead.
- Year 6 SATs breakfast
- Staff video to say hello
- Video for children returning to school to explain changes to provision
- Weekly phone call/check in for identified children/families
- Personal email for all children
- Key worker offer, including during school holidays
- Governors and SLT meetings remotely
- Communication with parents and carers
- Attempts to maintain community connectivity – assemblies, online discussions, whole school picnic
- A review of all school procedures to ensure they comply with the Covid Safe Risk Assessment and Government guidance

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*'High Standards Through a Caring Community'*

## **CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN SCHOOL:**

Our staff team has been working very hard to reopen school to more children following Government guidance to ensure we do so as safely as possible and we wanted to write to update you about what has been happening recently. Over the past two weeks, the year groups which the Government announced should return have successfully done so; Y6 returned on 10th June, Y1 on 15th June and finally Reception on 17th June. Our key worker children have continued to attend since we 'closed' in March but as more parents have returned to work, this group has increased in number recently. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to extend beyond our current number of 'Key Worker' bubbles, i.e. a KS2 bubble and a Reception / KS1 bubble, each containing up to 15 children.

Children have adapted remarkably quickly to one-way systems, social distancing, outdoor learning, virtual assemblies, hand washing, sitting at separate tables and staggered start times and play times.

## **CHILDREN WORKING FROM HOME:**

We are very conscious that some children have been out of school for a long time now. We are grateful to the parents who are continuing to home school their children under very difficult circumstances. Planning and activities continue to be added to the home learning section of the school website, which are based upon the activities planned for the children within school, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help. We have tried to plan these in a manner that does not require extensive amounts of resources and that can be carried out at a point in the week convenient to you, to fit around your working pattern. We would still advocate though, little and often is the best way forward for many children.

Many families are reporting to us that they are finding the current situation of their children being at home harder, as the amount of time school has been partially closed for has been longer than any of us expected. Balancing the demands of your own work and elements of home learning is very challenging and we acknowledge this. Please know you are doing a good job in difficult circumstances. We are making attempts to engage the children not yet back at school and continue to provide work for them but unfortunately there are limits to staff availability as all staff are involved in daily teaching of bubbles whilst still monitoring home learning.

There was recently opportunity for your child to check in with their own teacher and classmates via Google Meet. Over the next three weeks, there will also be an opportunity for your child to meet their teacher for next year via two remote transition meetings. Further details to follow. As a school we have explored whether there is any possibility of finding a way to bring children from Years 2,3,4 and 5 into school. Unfortunately, as we brought back a higher percentage than many other schools of children from Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and our Key worker group, this has left us without the space or staffing capability to bring other year groups back without compromising the systems and procedures in place which are keeping our children safe. Some parents have queried whether the government's announcement about reducing the safe distance to 1 metre would allow for other children to return. As our bubbles are already at a maximum capacity of 15 children, this does not allow us to increase the places available in each bubble as the guidance regarding bubble sizes remains the same.

The Local Authority have issued a letter to all parents and carers outlining the position of Stockport schools with regards to the places they can offer. The letter directs you to an email address for School Enquiries at Stockport MBC in light of the fact that many schools are unable to offer any more places to children of Key Workers.



## STAFFING:

- Hopefully, you might have had chance to meet our new site supervisor, Mr Jonathan Longworth. Jon has made a great start to his role, making many contributions towards preparing the school for the return of more children after the lockdown.
- As you will hopefully be aware, Miss Smith was successfully matched with a child for adoption and although a little delayed due to the Pandemic she has now commenced her adoption leave. Both Miss Smith and her little boy seem to be settling well into their new life together.
- We recently held interviews virtually to seek a temporary replacement for Miss Smith and would like to welcome Miss Amy Smith (no relative!) to our team. She will join us from September 2020. We are hoping she may be able to meet her new class before the end of the academic year.
- Recently, we have also been informed by Mrs Warburton and Mrs Fry of their intention to retire at the end of the academic year. They have both been long serving members of the school staff and have supported many children throughout their time here. We are sure you would join us in thanking them for their dedication and commitment to everything they have done during their time here. We wish them all the very best for their retirement and are sure they will keep busy, spending time with their respective families.

## REPORTS:

This year our reports will take a similar format, although the assessment judgements are based on where the children were assessed at the end of the Spring term. We have also tried to indicate targets which should be a focus at the start of the next academic year. The reports should be with you by Tuesday 14th July. Further details about the delivery of reports to you will follow in due course.

## TRANSITION:

Normally at this time of year we begin preparing the children for the next stage of their education. Please be reassured that if your child is moving onto high school we are liaising with the relevant high schools to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. They have confirmed there will be no physical visits possible this year.

With regards to children moving classes at St John's as mentioned we plan for them to be able to meet their new teacher via Google Meet over the coming weeks.

The St John's team have been busy adapting our usual First Steps programme to enable our new Reception children and families to meet some of the staff and familiarise themselves with us at St John's.

## September

With regards to the arrangements for returning to school in September we still await the official guidance from the Government. As soon as we are able to share this with you we will look to do so. It is our understanding that we will not be asked to provide child care for Key Worker children over the summer holidays.



## TERM DATES & INSET DAYS (2020,2021):

Please see the term and INSET day dates below for the next academic year.

	School opens:	School closes on:
AUTUMN 2020	8.45am on Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	3.15pm on Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
	8.45am on Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	3.15pm on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
SPRING 2021	8.45am on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	3.15pm on Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
	8.45am on Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	3.15pm on Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
SUMMER 2021	8.45am on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	3.15pm on Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May
	8.45am on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	3.15pm on Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July

### Inset Days:

1. Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020
2. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020
3. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020
4. Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020
5. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Can we take this opportunity to thank you once again for your flexibility, understanding and support during this very challenging time for us all. The children have risen to the challenge brilliantly and are a credit to you and St John's.

Best wishes,



Mr P Rayner  
Headteacher



Mr A Clerc  
Deputy Headteacher

Contact: [admin@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk)

Website: <http://www.st-johns.stockport.sch.uk>



St Johns CE Primary



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