



St George's

C of E Primary School & Nursery

'Everyone Matters, Everyone Achieves'

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Sixsmith

London Road
St Georges
Telford
Shropshire
TF2 9LJ

Tel: 01952 387750 Email: admin@stgeorgesschool.org.uk Website: <http://www.stgeorgesschool.org.uk>

Wednesday 9th September

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! It has been lovely getting to chat with so many of you on the playground over the past week and I would like to give my sincere thanks for all of your support. Generally, the staggered start has worked well- there are some points we need to improve regarding social distancing and I have detailed these below.

I will apologise straight away as this long letter has a lot of reminders in it but it is essential that we keep working together to keep our school community as safe as possible.

Letters

We are trying to reduce the amount of paper letters we send out to parents, mainly because of COVID but also as it will help the environment as well as saving school money. We will send letters via email as well as putting them on the school website. Please ensure you regularly check your emails and if you are not receiving communication from us, check your junk box. If you change your email address please let the school office know. We will text parents if we have emailed important letters so you know to check that day.

Facebook and the school website

For those parents who do not know, we do have a school Facebook page that can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesPrimaryTelford>. Our Facebook is not designed for communication back and forth with parents, please use our email for that.

You can visit the school website at www.stgeorgesschool.org.uk

The website is a great way to let the general public find out more about our school, but more importantly it is an extremely useful tool for parents. The site features a **Parents' Area for News and Updates**. This area is regularly updated by school staff and teachers with the purpose of making communications from the school to parents easier and more regular, giving you a convenient way to check news and to gain a better insight into what's happening.

In addition to news from the school office, each year group has been given their own area where they can relay news and activity. There is also a place for you to view the weekly spellings and homework.

There is a school calendar which lays out all upcoming events and clubs (although this term there are very few dates due to COVID), and we will be adding information to the website as it happens, so you can easily check for the latest news when it suits you.



Please subscribe for news on our website!

Our website has its own news subscription service and we would like all parents to subscribe to our news emails; it's free, quick and easy and will ensure that you are always up to date with what's going on at school.

Simply click the newsletter link at the bottom of any page. If you subscribed last year, an automated email should have been mailed to you asking you to update your year group preferences. Parents who don't have internet access can contact the school office for a printout of the news from the website each week.

Parents coming into school

Just to politely remind you that parents are not able to come into school, including to the school office, unless by prior appointment. Please contact school using the email and telephone number on this letter. Please note that the school office is not staffed until 8am each morning. Alternatively, a senior member of staff will be on the KS1 playground each morning and afternoon.

We have a drop box outside of the main school office for you to leave any forgotten PE kits, lunches etc. Please ensure whatever items you put in there are named.

Social distancing

PLEASE keep your distance from other families when you are on the school site. We have plenty of room to space out but we do need everyone to be patient with each other. This is particularly the case on the path coming out of school. It is quite narrow and you may need to wait to leave through the gate. Please do not stand near the gate on the path outside of school as this is sometimes blocking the route for other families.

We have asked that only one adult per family comes onto the school site to reduce the number of people here at any one time. Please follow this rule as it helps to keep all of us safe. Please try to keep to your allocated time slot for drop off and pick up so that we continue to space people out- we have over 1000 people entering the school site every day!

Surnames A - L to come in between 8:40am – 8:50am and pick up between 2:55pm and 3:05pm.

Surnames M – Z to come in from 8:50am – 9:00am and pick up between 3:10pm and 3:20pm.

We recognise that in some year groups we do need to tighten up getting the children ready to go at the end of the day to ensure parents are not waiting. We will do our absolute best in improving this aspect. **Please note though that although we open the gate for you at 2.50pm, collection time is not until 2.55pm.**

All children MUST be kept with parents on the way in and out of school and we ask that children do not play on the adventure equipment or climb trees on the school site. Children must not run ahead from their parents as some days we have ended up with a group of children all waiting for their parents on the path leading out of school. Again, this is not safe as they are by the road and it is not helping people to socially distance.

We can only ask you to follow all of these simple rules and trust that everyone does their bit to keep our school a safe as we can. Thank you for your support in this matter.

If your child is unwell

Please let us know immediately if your child is unwell. If your child or anyone in your household displays the COVID symptoms, they must not come into school. The household must isolate for 14 days or until negative test results come back.

The main three symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new persistent/continuous cough
- A loss of or change in sense of taste and/or smell

If you or your child are showing any of these symptoms you must let us know.

At this time of the year lots of children will have sniffles and colds as well as other normal illnesses. If you think they are well enough to come into school they can do so, as long as they do not have any of the above COVID symptoms. If you are unsure, please feel free to ring the school office **AFTER 8am** and we will be very happy to talk it through with you. Please note however, that school staff are not medically trained and we would advise you to call the NHS should you have concerns regarding your child's health.

Supporting your child's emotional and mental health at home

You may notice some changes in your child as most of them have been away from school for so long. Change in behaviour and emotions may very well be down to the fact that they are simply tired- coming back to school for whole days is hard work! If you are concerned about your child in anyway, please contact school to talk it though with a member of staff.

PE Kits

All children in Y1-6 should have a PE kit in school. They do not need to wear their PE kit all day on PE days and will get changed for the lesson in their own classrooms.

Book bags

We have given every child a plastic book bag to keep their school books protected- we spend a lot of money replacing books that have got wet inside school bags or just generally squashed and bent. Your children are more than welcome to also continue to use their own cloth book bags, with the plastic one inside for extra protection.

Snacks

Children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 all get provided with a free piece of fruit for their morning snack through the national fruit scheme so they do not need to bring in their own snack. Children in Y3-6 are very welcome to bring in a snack for morning playtime, but we only allow fruit. No cereal bars or crisps etc should be coming into school please.

Nut free school

Please remember we are a nut free school so any items containing nuts, including chocolate spread, should not be included in children's lunchboxes.

Birthday sweets and cakes

Just to remind you that St George's do not have sweets and cakes coming into school from home for children's birthdays. This is because of allergies and health reasons.

Water bottles

Please ensure your child has their water bottle in school every day.

School photos

Due to COVID, we are unable to have the children's school photos taken this term. We have booked the photographer for after Christmas and will give out more details nearer the time if we know the photo shoot can safely go ahead.

Parking

Please park considerately and safely when you are dropping off and collecting children. The yellow zig zags must always be kept clear. We do need to work together to keep our children safe.

Reading and home work

Please support your child at home with their reading and homework. Children are asked to read regularly at home, and we ask if you can then jot a comment in the reading record so we know how well they are doing. The more they read, the better their skills and confidence will be. The children also have the chance to earn rewards in school for regularly reading at home.

Parents' evenings, mentions assemblies and Christmas performances

Understandably, we will be unable to hold parents' evenings this term due to COVID restrictions. We are currently discussing plans for ways to communicate with parents regarding your child's progress this term.

Mentions assemblies, when parents are invited to come in to celebrate their children getting a special mention certificate, will also not be able to take place this term. I will still give out mentions certificates at the end of each half term in the children's own classes but unfortunately parents will not be able to see it happen.

This year, Christmas in school will have to look very different. We will ensure we still make it special for all the children but I just wanted to pre-warn parents that it is highly unlikely that we will be able to do any Christmas performances for parents.

New Special Needs and Inclusion Leader

I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs Holly Evans has joined us as our new Special Needs and Inclusion Leader. Mrs Evans comes with a lot of special needs experience and is keen to get to know our children with special needs over the next few weeks. I know she has already contacted some parents who have children in school with special needs and will be speaking to others soon. Should you need to speak to Mrs Evans, please contact the school office who will put you in touch with her.

As I said at the start of this letter, my apologies for it being so long. I do hope you understand why I have needed to include so many reminders.

If you have any questions or worries at all, please email or telephone school so that we can help you.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sally Sixsmith

Head Teacher