



St George's

C of E Primary School & Nursery

'Everyone Matters, Everyone Achieves'

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Sixsmith

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Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents,

I do hope you had a lovely half term despite the terrible weather!

This letter contains several important reminders and messages for all families. These next few weeks are potentially going to be tough for school staff and families so it is so important that we all work together as well as we can.

Painted rocks

Thank you if your child has already added a rock to the snake which is growing along the main entrance route into school. Please feel free to add more rocks to the snake as times goes on! If your child has made a poppy rock, it can either be added to the snake or you can add it to the community display that has already started outside Tranters in St Georges.

Poppies

We will be selling poppies again in school this year. We have ordered a box per year group so they will not be passed across bubbles. Your child can bring a donation in to buy a poppy from staff in their year group, any day from tomorrow.

Social distancing on the school grounds

Many families are understandably concerned with the growing number of confirmed cases in the area as well as across the country. Please help our community by ensuring you stay at least 2m from other parents as you drop off and collect your children. This is especially important on the exit path at the end of the day as it can become congested, so we ask politely for you to be patient and give people space. This may mean waiting for a minute or so on the playground for your turn to move along the path.

With another lockdown coming into place, parents are encouraged now to wear masks on the school grounds although please understand that we cannot enforce this. Can we also remind you that we ask that only one adult should be dropping off/collecting children from school to limit the number of people coming onto the school site.

Please keep your children with you at all times as you arrive and leave the school grounds. Please do not gather in groups and try to leave the school grounds and outside of school as quickly as you can.



Parents' Evenings

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents into school for parents' evenings this term. Staff have instead written a short report for each child which will be brought home by children. We are doing our very best for these reports to come home with your child on Friday 6th November.

Communication from school

We will continue to keep you updated using texts, emails and the school website so please do keep checking for any key news.

Absence from school due to illness

As a school it is very important that we continue to look at children's attendance, even with everything going on with COVID, lockdowns and isolating. Part of our safeguarding procedures is to ensure we know where children are every day so that we know they are safe. If your child is unwell please ensure you email or ring the school office first thing **each day of their absence**. Staff will need to know who your child is, their class, the reason for their absence and who you are in relation to the child. Please do not be offended if we ask lots of questions- as you can imagine it is especially important at the moment that we know about all illnesses and symptoms. The school office is manned from 8am each day.

If we do not receive an email or phone call about why your child is not in school, office staff will ring you. If there is no answer and you have not returned our call by lunchtime, school welfare staff will come out to your home to complete a safe and well check.

PLEASE help us by letting us know each day and ensuring your contact details are always up to date.

Holidays in term time

Holidays in term time will not be authorised unless deemed as being exceptional circumstances- this is national policy. More details can be found in the school's Attendance Policy which is on the website. Should you wish to request absence in term time, we ask that you complete a form from the school office **before** you go on holiday. Please be honest with us- we have had two cases this school year where parents have rung up telling us their children are unwell but the children have told us where they are going on holiday. This can cause embarrassment for both yourselves and us when we contact you regarding this so it is much better just to let us know what is happening please.

Catch-up sessions

Don't forget that catch-up sessions start tomorrow (Tuesday 3rd November) after school for all year groups **except nursery and reception**. Children can bring a snack and a drink to have before their catch-up session if they would like to. Please sign your child up for the sessions on Parent Pay if you haven't done so already.

Collection times for the end of the sessions are:

- Children whose surnames start with A-L between 3:50pm and 4:00pm
- Children whose surnames start with M-Z between 4:00pm and 4:10pm.

We are hopeful that most parents will take up the offer of children joining the sessions but if they are not attending then please collect your children at the normal times. Reception and nursery children also need to be collected at the normal end of the school day times.

Normally I would be sending parents lots of dates for your diary at this point in the school year but due to everything going on, it is definitely a quieter term in school. Staff are working hard to make sure that learning is enjoyable and that children are catching up on learning missed in the summer term. We are also planning some lovely activities to celebrate Christmas in school this year.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Sixsmith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Sixsmith".

Mrs Sally Sixsmith

Head Teacher