

'Do Everything In Love' - 1 Corinthians 16 v14



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12 June 2020

Dear Parents

I am sure this week's announcement that the rest of the year groups will not be returning will have been met with mixed feelings from you all. For some a reassurance that it would not have been as safe and practicable as at first thought, and for others a sense of sadness that the children will not get to finish the school year and you have no choice but to continue with home learning.

I am hearing from some parents of how much harder it is to motivate and encourage the children you have at home as the weeks go on. However, we do hope that the new planning you have access to on our class website pages is helping with this burden. I also realise that some of you are having to share more computer time and incurring extra printing costs. If you need to print out the maths sheets for example and this is becoming an issue please let us know. We can photocopy the worksheets for you at school and you can then come and collect a pack of them.

Currently school leaders have not been made aware of the requirements for September and whether or not to plan for the return of all year groups. I sincerely hope that we are told before the end of term what is to be expected of schools for the new academic year. As soon as I am informed I will keep you up to date.

All of the new arrangements are working well and the children are getting used to the new 'normal'. For those parents of younger children who are attending school and having packed lunch, please could you undo or cut anything plastic in their lunch box. We are unable to handle cheese strings/peperami/fruit strips etc in order to open these for children and it will be much easier to manage if they have already been 'undone' in some way. Also, please ensure that the children can undo their own pots/flasks/bottles. Of course, if they are struggling we will assist, but as you can appreciate having to wash our hands after each of these interactions is time consuming. A reminder too that all children should be bringing their own water bottle into school. Thank you.

Currently our Key Worker bubble is full and we are trying very hard to accommodate other parents who have now decided to return to work. I will prioritise NHS/carers initially but would ask that if any more parents are planning to ask for a space they only do so if both parents are Key Workers – this will then enable me to allocate any spare places in this 'bubble' to where there is the highest need.

We know that God loves us; We show it by being loving, honest and respectful.

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In planning for the next academic year, we have booked a week for the Year 5 & 6 to visit Osmington Bay for a residential in June 2021. Of course, at the moment we do not know if they will be allowed to open but we have made the reservation and as we are unable to hold a parents meeting with you currently, a letter outlining the details will be sent shortly. I am also unable to hold the 11+ meeting for the Year 5 parents at present but when I receive all of the key dates and information from the Grammar Schools I will update my usual Powerpoint slide show and send it out to you.

The parents of the new Reception children expected to start in September will also be sent a letter shortly outlining the procedures we have planned for induction in July and a starting timetable for entry into school in September, as well as a video of our induction meeting for parents. It maybe that the Government may choose, as one of their options (if they need to), to delay the starting of the new Reception year children initially in September, but we are planning entry as usual until we are instructed otherwise.

We have been asked to advertise a charitable portrait project being organised by a local photographer, Gemma Brunton, called 'Children of Salisbury – Life After Lockdown'. She is aiming to photograph at least 100 children by the end of year, each with a special story of how lockdown affected them in a positive way. This project is to benefit the Stars Appeal and Action for Children and is open to local children aged under 13. Full details for anyone who is interested are on the links below:-

www.childrenofsalisbury.co.uk

Instagram: @childrenofsalisbury

Facebook: @childrenofsalisbury

Our uniform supplier, Kids Klobber in Endless Street, is re-opening from Monday 15 June. They will be limited to the number of customers in the shop at any one time and also deliveries are taking longer than usual, so please order early to avoid a rush in August! You can still purchase uniform remotely by contacting them on their Facebook page.

As usual, please get in touch with me if you have any questions or queries at any time. Please phone or email head@st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk or send to admin@st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk and Mrs Poynting will forward.

Sincerely

Karen Walker

Headteacher

PS We have had another families grand reading page total this week that has now overtaken the last reported one: 15,055 over the lockdown period