

'Do Everything In Love' - 1 Corinthians 16 v14



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1 July 2020

Dear Parents

I have received a few enquiries this week about transition for the children into next year and finding time for closure for all of the children still at home. This has proved a bit of a minefield if I am honest. Some schools have tried to welcome back other year groups for a session, but the DfE have said that this was considered to be 'over exposure' and also Public Health England have advised against it. I know how strongly some of you feel about this but our hands are tied I am afraid, on welcoming back all of the children for a brief meeting before the end of term, even with reduced numbers and social distancing. I am also still waiting for clarification on how I can host a Leaver's Service for our Year 6. I would love parents to be able to attend some kind of celebration, but I have to ensure it does not constitute a 'mass gathering' and that they can be on site in such large numbers (as soon I hear back from the Local Authority I will inform Year 6 parents).

I realise that for some of the children, continuing with home learning and not having opportunities for much needed social interaction and engagement is worrying for parents and de-motivating for children. I have asked all of the teachers to record a welcome video for their new class in September and set up a weekly Zoom meeting for their current class to try to go some way to keep children engaged. The link will be sent to parents by email, not posted on the website, to keep it secure. If you do not receive school information by email then please phone in to get the link.

The new classes and teachers for September are as follows:-

Reception Class	- Mrs Usherwood	- Mrs Hudson
<i>(all new induction plans/ information are on the website under Children – New Starters)</i>		
Class 1	- Miss Curzon	- Mrs Dibden
Class 2	- Miss Clark	- Mrs Lupton & Mrs Dennett
Class 3	- Mrs Procter	- Miss Wardley & Mrs Hay
Class 4	- Miss Lawrence	- Mrs Fagan & Mrs Foord
Class 5	- Miss Dallard	- Miss Budworth
Class 6	- Miss Hodgson	- Mrs Ransome

We have had a small change round of teachers for next academic year, mainly because we felt that the younger children currently in Years 1 & 2 would benefit from continuing with their current teacher into next year.

The social distancing rules of 2m still apply in schools and therefore I still do not have capacity of accommodation or staffing to increase the size of our bubbles. This is hugely

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

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frustrating for parents with children still at home and I do understand how difficult it is for you all. I hope the planning and work posted on the class web pages goes some way to supporting the home learning, but I am aware that some children will be losing their motivation in accessing this. Please do not worry, any work or engagement you can achieve using other resources will be beneficial to them, whatever they are researching or getting involved with. Please do continue with daily reading though.

This weekend some youths broke into our Hobbit House (they have already broken 2 padlocks). This time they forced the bracket off the wood in order to gain entry, leaving all of their rubbish behind them. It is such a shame that people entering the school site have no respect for other people's property. I would ask that if you are local to the school and you notice or have noticed any youths over the last few days/weeks on our field that you please contact us to give us a description. The police have said they will follow up any leads from information given by local residents.

For those parents of new Reception children in September, if you have not yet received your sweatshirt (kindly donated by the Friends of St. Andrew's) Mrs Andrews will be at the gate for you to collect them on Wednesday morning @ 9.30am and Friday afternoon @ 2.00pm. If you are unable to make either of these collection times please will you let us know and we will arrange to get them to you.

A reminder that the Government is providing additional funding for a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to claim vouchers for the six-week holiday period. We will process these at the end of term so that those eligible will receive them for the holidays.

We have received notification from the Virgin Care School Nursing Team for parents to sign up for the annual flu vaccination scheme (ours will take place on Thursday 10 December). Please see the attached letter from Virgin Care with a link to their webpage. This scheme is open to all children who will be primary school age during the 2020/21 academic year.

Year 6 parents usually contribute to a gift for the school as they leave and I have gone ahead and had made a large metal shield with all of their names on that I shall put of the wall outside. I have shown the children in school and they love it - you can all come back in September and see it displayed forever outside.

If any Year 6 parent would like to contribute to this 'gift' (please don't feel you have to), you can give/send your donation to Mrs Helen Parker or post it through the door at reception. Thank you.



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

Sincerely
Karen Walker
Headteacher