

'Do Everything In Love' - 1 Corinthians 16 v14



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Headteacher

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Deputy Head

Miss A Hodgson BAEd



3 September 2020

Dear Parents

It was an absolute delight to see all of your children yesterday and we are all so happy that we are all back together again. Thank you to for parents for making the drop off at school as smooth as possible given the numbers of children involved. It is really appreciated.

I spoke to all the children in the morning via Zoom as we cannot meet as a whole school in the hall to let them know that whilst we all get used to new routines and systems our main aim is to ensure that we keep them all happy and safe. The priority at the moment is to focus on building positive relationships with each other, re-establishing learning behaviours and giving children the opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings. Many children have been away from school for a significant amount of time and we are aware that, for some of them, it is going to take a little time to build back up their confidence, resilience and stamina.

For the first few weeks of this term we are having a 'back to basics' timetable, reviewing past learning in Mathematics and English with many opportunities for creativity and fun in class so that the settling back into school life is centred around the children being calm and reassured about their learning. I know many of you have worked hard with your children during lockdown, which may not have been easy, but we do recognise the challenges you have all faced and hope we provided at least some focus for you. Please be assured that any catch up lessons or interventions will be put in place for those children who may need a little support to address any gaps in their learning. This will not be viewed as any reflection on their home schooling over the past months - we do appreciate your effort and hard work.

The Parent Planners will be sent out to you shortly as each class may start their themed topic for the term at different times this term, allowing for flexibility relating to the needs of the class.

Hobbit House

This was installed during lockdown and was used partially by the year groups we had in school over the Summer Term, with most of the time was given to the Year 6 children as they were leaving at the end of July. Miss Dallard has completed a timetable for each class so they can have their turn in our new reading den. The Friends of St. Andrew's kindly funded the appropriate books that were purchased for each year group plus a set of fiction books. These have now been placed in 'wheelable' trolleys, which the prefects take out each day for the different classes. I hope to send some pictures shortly.

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

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Canopy / Playground

You may have noticed that we have had a new canopy erected for the Reception/Year 1 play area which will improve our ability to use the whole area in inclement weather. The Playground has also been resurfaced. This was because the Governors and I considered the surface to be a Health and Safety issue, mainly because of all of the loose gravel that was on the surface which presented not only a slippery hazard but also when children fell over the gritty stones and ended up in cuts and grazes. We have yet to put back the thermoplastic markings but this will be completed as soon as possible.

EYFS

The new children in Reception will all start with us next week, which we are all looking forward to, especially the Year 6s, but their 'buddy' system this year will have to be a more socially distant one than in the past. The school is currently voting for our Head Boy and Girl Prefects (Last Year's Year 6 voted in July) which will be announced next week.

I hope that this all reassures you that we are working to make the children's reintroduction into school as safe, supportive and calm as possible. If, as ever, there is anything you would like clarifying or explaining, please do get in touch.

New Starters

We warmly welcome Tyler to Year 1, Alexis to Year 3, Riley to Year 4 and the following pupils who are joining our Reception Class this September: Amelia, Arthur C, Arthur S, Ava, Brian, Carter, Charlie HP, Charlie T, Eliza, Ella, Florence, Gabriella, Harry, Hazel, Huw, Jack, Jessica, Kingsley, Lewis, Lily-Mae, Megan, Mia, Nancy, Oscar, Poppy, Punith, Rosie, Sophie, Zoe S and Zoe T.

Music Lessons

These will be held as follows for the children who have signed up for peripatetic lessons:-

- String Lessons (Miss Luton) start date to be confirmed (we will email parents)
- Woodwind Lessons (Ms Ridley) Wednesday mornings (start 9 September)
- Brass Lessons (Mr Walker) Friday afternoons (start 11 September)

Music lessons are held over 33 weeks of the school year (Autumn – 12 weeks; Spring – 10 weeks, Summer – 11 weeks) and there is a term's written notice for cancellation. The cost for the Autumn Term is £87.60 (plus £15 if you hire an instrument) and can be paid on SIMS Pay once lessons have started. For children who had string lessons in 2019/20, your fees will be reduced by £19.50 as there were 3 lessons owed to you at the start of lockdown.

In addition to this, Classes 3 and 4 will be having whole class recorder lessons weekly with Mr Walker (no additional charge to parents for these lessons).

I have received risk assessments from Wiltshire Music Service on the safe delivery of music lessons in school. Please rest assured that where children are taught in groups, lessons will be socially distanced in a space, such as the School Hall, which allows this to happen.

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Lunches

Universal Free School Meals are available for all Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils daily. We would ask all parents continue to fill in the order forms sent home every half-term so that we are able to order the correct quantities of food each day. Copies of these forms are available on the website under Food For Life – School Lunches, or paper copies are available from the folder outside the School Office.

For all Key Stage 2 pupils, hot lunches can be ordered at a cost of £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week (£80.50 up to the October half-term holiday). All meals must be ordered and paid for in advance as our catering staff do not have the time to continually chase up late payments. Payment should be made online using our SIMS Pay Payment system (www.st-andrews-laverstock.wilts.sch.uk – About Us – Online Payments). Please ask at the office if you need a new access code. If you do not have access to a computer at home, we can make the office computer available to you.

Parents to Lunch

Unfortunately we are not able to hold our regular Parents to Lunch events at the moment due to the social distancing requirements, but these will be reinstated as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Pupil Premium/Free School Meals

Extra funding is available for school to spend on the education of children from families in receipt of certain benefits (including funding for Free School Meals at all Key Stages). If you think that you might be eligible, please apply online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals> or ask for a form in confidence from the School Office. **It is important that parents complete this form even if your child is in Reception/Key Stage 1 pupil**, as it means that we will get additional funding to spend on supporting your child throughout his/her school career, and to pay for additional school expenses such as swimming, trips and music lessons. Pupil premium children are also entitled to free milk, even after their 5th birthdays.

Tuck

Tuck is available for all children in years 1 – 6 to buy on Tuesday mornings at play-time. Please send your child in with 20p if they wish to buy a homemade cake/biscuit from the School Kitchen.

Healthy Eating and Nut Allergies

We promote healthy eating and encourage the children to make healthier food choices. Children in Years R – 2 receive a free fruit snack each day. Children in other years may bring in fruit to eat at breaktime. If children are bringing packed lunches, please do not include sweets and chocolate in their meals. To ensure that our Healthy Eating Policy is inclusive, please do not bring in sweets or cakes to give out on birthdays. Thank you for supporting our healthy eating policy.

As we have some children in school who are allergic to nuts, please do not send in nuts or nut products in lunchboxes. We do not use nuts or nut products in school meals, and a list of allergens is provided on the school meal planner that is sent home to parents each half-term. Please speak to Mrs Carpenter, our Catering Manager, if you have any queries or special dietary requests.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting on Tuesday 22 September. All children will have an individual photograph taken. Children with siblings at St Andrew’s will also have their photos taken together. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer photos with siblings who do not attend our school this year, due to the current restrictions. We have a new school photographer who will be giving ordering codes to the children to bring home on the day, so that you can view and order photos directly from home without the need to wait for proofs to be sent to school.

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Breakfast Club

As the Out of School Service (OOSS) now have their own risk assessments, non-school clubs and activity groups are able to operate under the same statutory guidelines as we do (i.e. no more than 15 children in a bubble and keep the bubble regular). However, after contacting Public Health England, it seems that the dots have not been joined up, because potentially the OOSS can have 15 children in a regular bubble but from 15 different schools!

We have therefore decided that we will proceed with caution, but will resume Breakfast Club on Monday 7 September (7.30am – 8.30am). To start off with we will offer provision for 3 groups from 3 different bubbles. These groups will be Years 2, 3 and 6 – we have chosen these year groups as they historically have the most children who attend Breakfast Club. Siblings who are not in these year groups will be able to attend. One year group will be in the Library and we will have one at either end of the school hall, and we will try to keep these bubbles separate. Please could parents drop off at the front door.

If you require Breakfast Club and you are not in any of these year groups and are desperate for a place, please ring me to discuss. It is hoped that within a few weeks when I get clearer guidelines, we shall be able to open up Breakfast Club to all who need it.

I hope that this all reassures you that we are working to make the children’s reintroduction into school as safe, supportive and calm as possible. If, as ever, there is anything you would like clarifying or explaining, please do get in touch.

We will send another letter next week with more details and dates for this term.

Sincerely

Mrs K J Walker

Headteacher