15th July 2020

Dear Parents and families of St Mary’s

**School reports and your child’s next year class have been sent in the post to those parents whose children are not in school and for children in school, their report was sent home on Tuesday 14th July.**

**We hope that despite lockdown you can enjoy and celebrate your child’s achievements this year.**

If you do have any questions or concerns about your child’s report please email in the first instance and we will contact you.

**St Mary’s 2020 to 21**

**Your child next year**

Details of which class your child will be taught in are contained within your child’s report envelope. We have returned to mixed age classes across the whole school. The majority of children will be taught by their current class teachers. Those that could not meet with their new class teacher will know who they are and have had some contact throughout the school year.

All teachers are sensitive to the fact that we have had lockdown and that September will have elements of change for pupils. We will be working to ensure that all pupils feel safe and happy as part of their return journey.

From 15th July your child can access a short video message from their next class teacher via the school website. Eagle pupils please be patient; your message will not be available until after the 22nd July as Mrs Gill and Mrs Bray wanted to create a message together and will be together in school that day.

**Class Structure 2020 to 21**

Robin Class Foundation/ Year 1 Mrs Burrough , Mrs Slade with Mrs Hill and Mrs Sakowska

Woodpecker Class Year 1/ Year 2 Miss Wood, Mrs Foley and Mrs Sakowska

Owl Class Year 2/ 3 Miss Burnell, Miss McGovern and Mrs Walters

Kestrel Class Year 4/ 5 Mrs Fudger, Miss Crouch and Mrs Hogarth

Eagle Class Year 5 / 6 Miss Bray, Mrs Gill and Mrs Desanges

We welcome Mrs Hill as support teacher in Robin Class. Mrs Hill is a qualified teacher who has worked previously at St Mary’s. Mrs Hill is also the parent of one of our pupils, Evelyn, in Kestrel Class. We hope that Mrs Hill will be very happy with us.

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Willson, a temporary support teacher, who has been with us since March to replace Mrs Hutton, who has been on maternity leave. We wish Mrs Willson success in her next position and thank her for her dedication to St Mary’s this term.

**Whole School Actions**

You may be aware that Government guidance for September was released on Friday 2nd July. This is a 30 plus page document. It is asking us to build on the success and learning of this term. I am currently working closely with the Central Trust Team on the final action plan and risk assessment for the return to school.

**Information for September 2020**

**School return INSET for staff Monday 7th September**

**School return for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will be Tuesday 8th September**

**School return for new starter Foundation Class pupils will be Thursday 10th September.**

**Each class** will operate as a single class base with as much time as possible spent within the classroom. Access to the library for example will not be available so that wherever possible we reduce the ‘traffic’ in school. We have worked to minimize school to home and across school exchanges. Within each class base we have worked to reduce shared equipment as much as possible.

**Staggered entry and exit will remain in the Autumn term.**

**Robin 9.15 start via side door off the main entrance. End of day 3.00pm**

**Woodpecker start 8.45 via side door off the main entrance. End of day 3.15pm**

**Owl start 8.45 via new wooden gates. End of day 3.15pm**

**Kestrel 9.00am via new wooden gates. End of day 3.30**

**Eagle 9.00am via new wooden gates. End of day 3.30**

**Dragonflies will use the blue gates.**

**We ask you to not use the external car park. Parents are asked to walk and if driving to park away from school.**

**In the mornings staff will be available to support safe and swift entrance into school.**

**Parents are asked to socially distance and to leave the school area as soon as possible.**

**Increased levels of cleaning and hygiene :** handwashing and in class and across school cleaning of touch points and shared equipment will remain the norm for the Autumn term.

**Increased vigilance in the event of your child being unwell**

All children in England are required by Government to return to school in September. At the same time the Government are asking all of us to support the on going transition through Covid 19. We are all asked to be aware of symptoms of Covid 19 and to support track and trace. If you know your child has a temperature or a sustained and persistent cough you are asked to keep them away from school.

We have strict guidelines around the management of Track and trace. If children or staff have symptoms or other members of households we will require to self isolate.

We are all asked to support this going forwards.

**School Lunch**

For the first week it will be the reduced summer term menu (see attached) with an option of vegetarian for each day. This is the menu that we have had in school this term.

The full menu will resume on Monday 14th September. Please see attached. Please book your child’s lunch via Parent Pay from the start of term. Payment of lunches is for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils unless you qualify for free school meals. Reception. Year 1 and Year 2 all receive a free school meal. We expect that fruit will return for these year groups and that milk for those under 5 will be available. These have not yet been fully confirmed.

**Please note to support our planning** we are asking you to **confirm your child’s lunch requirements for the first half tem in advance**.

Children can bring a packed lunch but this must be in a plastic container which will be wiped on arrival in school. Where possible can it please contain items that your child can access on their own.

It is very important in this phase of Covid 19 management that we know in advance the number of hot lunches and home packed lunches we are providing.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

**Parent access to school will be for emergency needs only. Please e mail or phone any questions. Paperwork can be posted through the school letter box if it cannot be returned by e mail.**

For the first half term there will be **no before school** and **after school clubs.** We are already looking at ways to return this in some form as soon as possible by working with the guidelines set out by the Government.

There will be **no swimming** in the autumn term.

**Mass and assemblies:** there will be no form of large group gathering within school or in other settings. We will be working to have class assemblies for pupils and will continue to use the St Mary’s Axminster Facebook Page and school website to share information with you about school life with you.

**Possibility of return to lockdown: preparation for out of school learning**

There is a national conversation about the virus increasing as we approach winter. In any event we are working to ensure that if a child is out of school for 8 or 14 days quarantine or longer we will be in a strong position to offer continuous education.

We had to create a school almost over night when we last went into lockdown and we have been very creative in developing solutions as we have progressed through the term. We are now much better equipped to ensure that schooling can be continued if we are faced with a local or national lockdown. Each class base will have an electronic system with personal pupil log ins which will support some class learning and homework. It is being planned so that it can be straight forward to switch this to a home learning system so that teaching and direct contact for each pupil can be achieved.

**School Uniform**

Please find attached the uniform list with details of how to purchase items from our supplier, Honiton Sports shop. Children can return in summer or winter uniform depending on your own preference. We will not formally switch to winter uniform until January 2021.

**Minimise home items**

Children should bring a water bottle from home and if they are having a packed lunch. Please ensure that your child is not bringing in other items.

**Medicines in school**

Currently, the Government guidelines for staff giving medicines in school is not clear. As such, in September if your child does require medicines to be taken in school please could you let us know as soon as possible. The children will be in their hubs so we will look at what is the best way to deal with this.

**Working Tax Credit and Pupil Premium Entitlements**

If your situation has changed during Lockdown and you are now entitled to working tax credits, please consider applying for Free School meal pupil premium entitlements. Even if your child is in reception, year 1 or 2, and therefore qualifies for a free daily lunch at school then we will be apply for additional school funding from Jan 2021. To see if you qualify go to:

**devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals**

Click on the citizen portal link on the page and apply through that link.

Alternatively, call 0345 155 1019 and they will be happy to help.

**Summer Holiday childcare provision through Devon County Council**

We have been sent the below link which contains a list of childcare providers who have confirmed that they will be making an offer over the summer holidays.  Please note that this was accurate at the time of publishing, however Devon County Council cannot provide information on spaces available and parents will need to contact providers directly.

The information is posted on PinpointDevon [**on this link**](https://services.pinpointdevon.co.uk/kb5/devon/services/results.action?coronavirusstatus=0&communitychannel=11_10) at and is also available at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/schools-and-families/#section-1>

**Healthy Start Programme**

Please find below a link for information on the Government’s national Healthy Start programme. This helps families with young children get free food vouchers for milk, plain fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk – along with free coupons for vitamins for children and pregnant women.

Families can find out if they are eligible on the Healthy Start website <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>  (if you have children under 4 or are pregnant and receive qualifying benefits).  Families fill in an application form which can be printed off the website and posted to Healthy Start.  Once they are registered the vouchers are sent directly to you .  Families can use the vouchers in registered shops <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/where-to-use-the-vouchers/>  and vitamins are currently being posted to families (once they are registered) by Childrens’ Centres. Please consider accessing this if you qualify.

**Six week summer holiday school emergency contact number**

Some parents will already have access to a direct number for Miss Clist and can continue to use this through the summer.

In addition, you can continue to contact school via the emergency number set up during lockdown. Mrs Mannix : **Tel : 07493 825 328**

**Miss Clist is getting married!**

Miss Clist did have her wedding plans cut short by the lockdown so we are all delighted that she has been able to arrange a new date. Even though this will be for a much smaller wedding than she planned it will be her special day. We are sure that you will extend your good wishes to her.

On our return in September Miss Clist will take her married nameMrs Stimpson.

**It does take a village to bring up a child.**

Thank you for all of your hard work in supporting your child’s learning this term. I know that throughout this, individually families have faced a range of challenges and have worked to create the best from these.

It was lovely to read and contribute to each child’s annual report over the last few weeks. There were so many reference to have a go, aiming high, building confidence and showing resilience. Whilst it may be true that children will have lost a little pace in test outcomes I feel sure that they have solid foundations in growing their self belief before we went into lockdown and that you have done lots to support that. Based on our experience this term with the many children who have returned to school, myself and the staff at St Mary’s, remain hopeful that we will build a positive start in September.

**A final well done and thank you**

We will soon say goodbye to our lovely year six. They have had a very unique few weeks plotting their way through this term with creativity and a positive attitude. They have each contributed to our success this year and have grown into confident and skilled individuals ready for their next step. In the final few days they will post their leaver’s video and their group plays on our school website. They will take part in a celebration where they will receive gifts and awards from school, parish and our governors. We wish them every success in their next step.

One more step along the world I go

A song for Year 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PXV3dwaeNU>

*(follow the link and sing along )*