



Thursday 2nd July 2020

Dear Parents,

PLANS FOR OPENING SCHOOL IN WEEK 6 - Monday 6th July 2020
At Saint Patrick's our approach will be to start.....SAFE.....SMALL.....SLOW.....FAIR.....

Today the Government will have released their guidance on schools' complete return in September 2020. The Local Authority are processing the logistics and will share their guidelines, so that each school can make plans for September; informed by risk assessment and staff capacity.

In addition to schools making a plan for return, we are required to make a contingency plan if we are exposed to a second wave in the Autumn term.

BOOKING PLACES

Many thanks to all those families who contact us with booking requests in good time before the weekly Wednesday deadline. **We are now at full capacity across the school.** If circumstances change for us and we are able to offer additional places, we will let you know weekly in this newsletter.

- Key Workers who work on shifts **MUST** continue to notify the school weekly to confirm that their booked days we have on record remain available. **Deadline is still 9am on Wednesdays**.
- Families will receive a confirmation email once we have received booking requests and completed our weekly risk assessment review.
- On days that children are not in school, they must be at home under parent supervision so that they do not compromise our bubbles on their return to school.

YEAR 6 RETURN

We are delighted to finally be able to offer Year 6 pupils the opportunity to return to school from next week. We are working on the Teams A (Monday / Tuesday) and B (Thursday and Friday) model. However, we can confirm this only once we have definite numbers.

ALL YEAR 6 PARENTS - Please contact the school by **12 noon Friday 3rd July** and indicate if you wish your child to attend school next week. You can also indicate your preference for the first or second half of the week, but we cannot guarantee you will get your choice. We will contact you by Parentmail by Friday evening to confirm your child's place.

IMPORTANT - Please remind your child of the new school environment and lockdown restrictions in place so that their expectations of school in lockdown are clear. Look at the video on the website to help.

'KEEPING IN TOUCH' OPPORTUNITIES

Yesterday, it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces return to school - albeit for a short time - for our Keeping in Touch sessions. We hope that Years 3,4 and 6 pupils who came back enjoyed seeing their classmates and teachers. **Next week, we will be offering sessions to Years 2,3,4 and 5 pupils.** If you are key workers and your child will already be in school next Wednesday, we will include them in the session as all participants will be socially distanced within the group.

We are also going to invite Year 1 pupils back for a session next week. Whilst we have been able to invite Year 1 back as a pure bubble; not all parents have taken up the offer, but may like their child to have a chance to come into school for an hour. If that works, we will try to accommodate Reception children the following week.

Many children who came in this week brought their Happiness Box with them and received their first Lockdown Challenge Certificate as a result.

The challenge we will set you for next Wednesday is this -

Prepare a very short (1 - 2mins) talk / presentation on something that you have learnt to do (eg. learnt to juggle or knit), practised and improved (eg. drawing, playing an instrument) or conquered a challenge (eg. tidied your bedroom, learnt all your tables etc.) You may bring in an example if you wish. Powerpoint presentations are not necessary, as hopefully, we will be outside in better weather than this week!





So, parents of pupils in Years 1,2,3,4 and 5:

Please ensure that you have read this letter and contacted the school -

Let the school know if you would like your child to attend a 'Keeping in Touch' session next Wednesday by 12noon THIS Friday 3rd July.

- Email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk You can also indicate your preference for the morning (11 - 12noon) or afternoon (1 - 2pm) session - but we cannot guarantee you will get your choice.
- On Monday 6th July, the school will ParentMail confirmation and inform you whether your child is in the morning or afternoon team.

THE JULY CURRICULUM: HOME LEARNING - LOCKDOWN CHALLENGES

We are happy to hear positive feedback from parents who like our July Home Learning curriculum sheets based on creative, physical and mindfulness challenges. Teachers have uploaded new challenges on their class webpages for next week. Please see the next Creative Challenge (above in blue) to be completed for the next Keeping in Touch day.

STAFF 'GIVE IT A GO' VIDEOS - MINDING MENTAL HEALTH

Staff are also producing a series of videos in which they share with children activities that they enjoy, help them to relax or have learnt themselves during lockdown. These videos will be uploaded on the COVID-19 NEWS page over the next three weeks. ANY child from ANY year group can watch and even try out ideas from ANY member of staff.

MOMENT IN TIME PHOTOS

You will have received a letter about our **Life in Lockdown Photography Project** last week. Please send us photos of your child(ren) -

- (i) A moment of happiness during lockdown
- (ii) A moment of learning / achievement / conquering a challenge – academic or not – during lockdown
- (iii) A 'porch portrait' of the whole family – outside your house, in the garden or in a public space.

Please email your photos to us (admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk) by Monday 6th July. Photos will only be used in the school building.

TRANSITION - MOVING ON AND MOVING UP

As we determine our September plans with the Local Authority and Governing Body, we are clear that we want to ensure that September is as smooth and positive as possible, as some of our children return after an absence of 5 months.

Our children will return to their EXISTING CLASSROOMS AND TEACHERS for the first couple of weeks so that they **remember....re-engage...reflect** on their learning and life at school pre-lockdown. We will work on the usual Term 6 transition activities which prepare our children to move on and move up to their next class as well as bring closure to their existing year. We will then be able to 'handover' our existing year groups to the new teachers and new rooms mid September. We believe that this approach reflects our school ethos and values; enabling all of our children to say goodbye before saying hello....

The Local Authority has approved this approach as a very positive start to a 'year of recovery' for our children.

We have sent out letters to parents of our new Reception children as well as our Year 6 Leavers to explain how Transition in COVID must obviously be different this year.



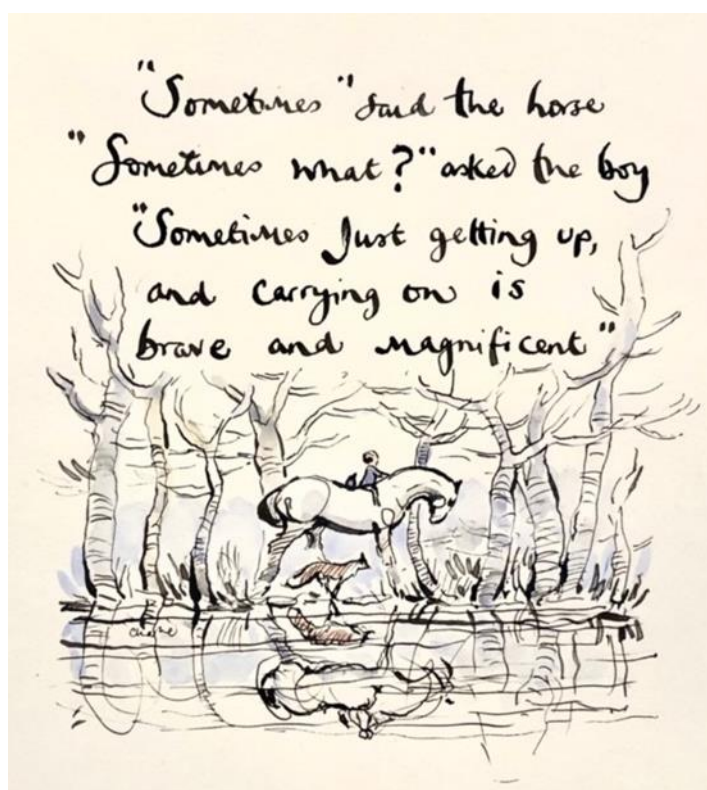


Obviously, when we have more information from the DfE and LA, we will share the September return plan with you before we break up. However, the LA has informed us that a Government briefing on 11th August will confirm the updated expectation of schools, and we will revisit our risk assessment and plans in August as a result.

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROVISION

The school will not be providing Summer holiday provision during August. The Local Authority are in the process of collating an overview of the paid for holiday provision that will be available over the Summer break for families that would like to access this. When we receive this information we will pass it on to you.

Stay safe. Stay in touch. Stay positive!



R. E. McLoughlin
Executive Headteacher

J. Courtney
Headteacher Designate

Mrs. M. Ellis
Chair of Governors

