



Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear Parents,

PLANS FOR OPENING SCHOOL IN WEEK 5 - Monday 29nd June 2020
At Saint Patrick's our approach will be to start.....SAFE.....SMALL.....SLOW.....FAIR.....

By now, we will all have heard the Government's changes to socially distancing guidance. We have all been told that the Government envisage all children in all year groups returning to school daily in September. They have promised to produce a document in coming weeks for all school leaders; outlining how they plan a safe return in the new year.

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 almost 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.

Due to staff absence, we are unable to offer places to Year 6 pupils next week. However, we are working on plans and will obviously keep you informed.

YEARS 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 'KEEPING IN TOUCH' OPPORTUNITIES

Yesterday, parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have received an additional letter about a plan enabling these pupils to come into school for 1 hour / week for a session with their class teacher and peers. For the last Wednesdays in the term, we will split these year groups in half, and meet together for an hour long session in the school grounds.

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

- *It is your choice. Please let the school know if you would like your Years 3, 4 and 6 pupils* to attend a 'Keeping in Touch' session next Wednesday by **12noon Friday 26th June.** Email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk*
- *The school will ParentMail confirmation and inform you whether your child is in the morning or afternoon team.*

NB. Due to staff absence, we can make this offer to Years 3, 4 and 6 only next week. We will be able to monitor the safety of this first session, before hopefully, opening it up to Years 2 and 5 in the following weeks.

THE JULY CURRICULUM: HOME LEARNING - LOCKDOWN CHALLENGES

In addition to reviewing health and safety systems weekly, we have also completed a review of Home Learning provision. Staff have given us feedback from their phonecalls with you, as well as their own input. We are mindful that some families are beginning to find Home Learning more challenging as weeks and months go by, some families have found it difficult to stay motivated since the recent Government announcement, and we are also aware of Term 6 traditionally being a time of rounding up the year and preparing to move on and up.

As a result, we are adapting the weekly Home Learning packs to try to support, engage and inspire our learners at home - or in school. Our final weeks of work will have a focus on wellbeing, creativity, enquiry and hands on experiences. We will set 7 weekly Lockdown Challenges; some of which we hope your children will be inspired and enthused by!

- Music / Drama / Dance Challenge * Social and Emotional Challenge * Spiritual / Reflective Challenge
- Creative / Craft / Design Challenge * Physical Challenge * Supporting the Community Challenge * Reading to Relax!





We will continue to upload the Home Learning Weekly Challenges work on the class web page, as well as provide a hard copy for collection in the school lobby. Teachers will upload additional worksheets that parents and children can use if they wish - instead of - or in addition to the Challenges.

The first Creative Lockdown Challenge is for every child to make a **HAPPINESS BOX**. Go to the Welcome page or the COVID-19 NEWS tab on the school website for a video in which I explain to children how to make the box. Children who will be in school next Wednesday, or coming in for a 'Keeping in Touch' session can bring their boxes for SHOW AND TELL time.



**Those children who are not in next week should still make them - you can show your box to your peers when you are in school.*

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.

We have produced a new resource 'What To Do Today' which is a really helpful document collecting together links for a whole range of smashing websites to support independent home learning, as well as being useful and informative time wasters! You can find this on the COVID 19 NEWS tab of the website.

BEAT THE HEAT

Earlier this week, you will have received Heat Safety guidance from Public Health England 'Keeping Healthy When it is Really Hot'.

Please ensure that any child coming in to school - for any amount of time - **has a sun hat / cap and water bottle with them every day.** We will do all we can to keep our children hydrated during the day, as well as ensure that they are not in the full sun for long periods of time. Please apply sunscreen to your child before they arrive in school. Send in the bottle and we can supervise your child topping up during the day, although staff will not be able to re-apply it.

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

