



THE ST CHARLES' NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th September 2020

"Bring Forth Christ"



Determination Friendship Good Manners Respect Responsibility

WELCOME BACK!

What a joy it has been to walk around school this week and see the classrooms full again, children learning and laughter on the playground. The plans we have put in place seem to be working well. We are tweaking them as we are going along whilst trying to adjust to this new way of working.

The children have been fantastic. They appear to have smiles permanently fixed to their faces and are loving being back in school, seeing their friends again. The teachers are busy identifying where all the children are up to academically following the lockdown whilst also managing the new handwashing regimes we have put in place.

I'm not sure what this academic year is going to bring. It won't be a 'normal' school year. Covid-19 will be around for some time and we are going to have to get used to this new way of living for now. We will have to make some tough decisions. These won't always be popular but they will always be made in our school community's best interests.

If there's anything you wish to discuss with me, please contact me through the school office or speak to me around school at the beginning or end of the school day.

Thank you, and please take every precaution you can to stay safe.

Mr Kennedy

Acting Head teacher

COVID-19 UPDATES

Thank you for your support and understanding this week as we've adjusted to the new one-way systems and drop off and collection arrangements. A couple of reminders to parents.

- Please can children bring a bottle of water in to drink. The water fountains remain switched off for now and are not able to be used. Children on school dinners will continue to receive a drink at lunchtime.
- Zones have been created on the junior playground to encourage social distancing when collecting children. Please could parents not congregate along the wall around the edge of the yard. This is designed to be a walkway to allow parents to safely the one-way system. Please could parents who have collected children in Years 2 and 3 follow the wall around the edge of the playground as they exit the school grounds.
- One-way systems will continue to be in place at the beginning and end of the school day. Please can parents who are collecting children off the junior yard make sure they exit onto St. Charles' Road.
- If you are waiting on St. Charles' Road for your child to leave the school grounds, please can you stand back to allow parents and children to exit the school grounds safely.
- **Breakfast Club Update** – we are changing the dropping off arrangements for children at Breakfast Club. As parents aren't required to sign their child/ren into breakfast club, we are finding there is no need to try to implement a one-way system. From Monday, we are going to use the infant gate on Knowles Street for parents to use when dropping their children off.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

I thought it would be a good idea to share some of the key information around how school is having to operate this academic year as we learn to live with the risks associated with Covid-19.

- If a child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, dry continuous cough or loss of sense of smell/taste), parents will be contacted immediately to collect their child. Children will wait in the Quiet Room in school until they are collected. **Other members of the child's household must also isolate.** Parents must arrange for a Covid-19 test to be completed. If the test is negative, they may return to school so long as they are no longer displaying symptoms (the child might still have another virus, such as cold or flu, therefore it is advisable they continue to avoid contact with others).
- Where there is a child who tests positive for Covid-19, school needs to be informed immediately, the child will be required to isolate for 10 days and the rest of their household needs to isolate for 14 days. School will contact the health protection team and a rapid risk assessment will take place. Our current understanding is that those who have been in close contact with the child who has tested positive will have to self-isolate for 14 days. School is keeping records using information we have to hand of any children who come into close contact with another individual as per the definitions below. School will contact parents and notify them of this situation if it were to arise. NB. If a child has to isolate as they have been in close contact, it is not a requirement for the rest of their household to isolate. This will only happen if their child then tests positive. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts – face-to-face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB BOOKINGS

Bookings have been put onto ParentPay for next week. Please check these are accurate and ensure you pay for these sessions by noon on Thursday 10th September otherwise you may lose your place.

We are finding that parents are booking places for their child/ren to secure their space but not attending. From WB Monday 14th September, parents will be charged for their child's non-attendance if school isn't given 48 hours' notice of a place no longer being needed.

There is no requirement to operate a Breakfast and After School Club and school receives no additional funding for these facilities to run. The money generated by attendance is needed to ensure we can still operate these facilities as we do not have the money in our school budget to sustain them. Thank you for your understanding.

