

St. John the Evangelist Church School

NEWSLETTER



Term 1.2 Thursday 10th September 2020



BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done everyone! We have worked through our first week back and things seem to be working well. Thank you for all your reassurance and positive feedback. It is important to continue to stress that, although school is fully open, we are in no way working under normal circumstances and this week's announcements by the Government, and concerns over rising infection rates, serve as an important reminder that we need to continue to take the pandemic seriously and follow the guidance and plans put in place to keep everyone safe.

We are beginning to get used to our routines and the children are doing brilliantly. As we go through each day we are constantly reviewing and adjusting our provision to make it the best that it can be. We may not be able to prioritise everything in the way we did before COVID, or in the way we would like to, but we will do our best to work with you promptly and as effectively as we can. Your full support and continued patience with this is very much appreciated.

The first three items today are linked to COVID measures for your information and action.

Social Distancing

We are all (school and home) working very hard to ensure large groups around the school site are minimised, especially at the start and end of the day when we have a large number of adults together. To support this further, please can I remind you that we ask for **one parent only** to bring children to and from school, and please do not bring younger or older non St John's siblings with you unless you really have no other child care option. Your support with this is very much appreciated and expected.

Travelling to school

Continued thanks for your fantastic support of our new traffic calming procedures outside of the school. We are aware that we have residents and delivery drivers who need to use the road, and that we still have some motorists who are choosing to ignore the signs. However, parental support has been overwhelmingly positive and there is a marked difference at the start and end of each day, allowing us to use Fosseyway safely for families to spread out and keep their distance at drop off and pick up times.

We were informed that representatives from North Somerset were observing the situation this morning and we await their feedback.

The authority is also seeking feedback from all those affected by the access change (parents, school staff, residents etc) You can share your thoughts using the Sustrans 'Space to Move'

webpage. <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/space-to-move/>

As the website states:

"Local authorities across the UK are making changes to our streets in response to COVID-19.

These changes are designed to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle safely whilst social distancing during the lockdown and beyond. And we want to hear what you think about them."

To find out if the changes are working they are asking whether the scheme:

- helps maintain physical distancing?
- helps people make essential journeys?
- makes people feel safer?
- means that people are more likely to walk and cycle?
- will have positive impact on the area in the longer term?

We will be contacting local residents to share this information but do please feel free to share the Sustrans web link with anyone you know locally who may wish to contribute. All views are valid and helpful .

COVID testing and support

Please see the message below which we have received from NHS test and trace and PHE. I have been asked to make you aware of the contents.

Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- 1) they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell; or
- 2) they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).

If a pupil, student, or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP.

As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students do not need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Concerns regarding illness should be referred to NHS 111

COVID testing and COVID advice based on symptoms can be sought by calling 119

Please note that we are not qualified at school to diagnose or decide whether you need to seek a test so do please follow the guidance and advice issued by the NHS and PHE carefully.

This week's newsletter is full of information that we always share at the beginning of a new academic year, and gives guidance and advice around systems and routines that support you in supporting the effective education of your children. Please keep this information to hand in the coming weeks and months for reference. Please be aware that many of our usual procedures and events are being affected by the current COVID restrictions. We will keep you updated as things change and will aim to return to our usual programme of events as soon as we possibly can.

School Uniform Orders

We still have several orders in school waiting collection. Please can we ask that you arrange to collect these items ASAP by coming to the school office between 10:00 and 14:00.

Message from Monmark:

Exchanges: Any exchange or refund request needs to be emailed through to Helenl@monmark.co.uk and NOT by phone. This is so we can keep track on stock and arrange the urgent requests properly. Please ask your parents to have patience with this process. We appreciate it is important and will facilitate all as a priority.

New Orders: If parents require new items, they must still order through www.clevedonschooluniform.com. We can NOT take orders over the phone unfortunately. We are getting a lot of phone calls about ordering still so please stress this fact.

We are endeavouring to fulfil orders within a 7 working day turn around. All orders, whether exchange or new will be collected from Monsoon from this point forward (09.09.20). We will email the parents once the garments are available to collect. If you could request parents check their junk folders, that will help greatly.

We thank you for your cooperation with this communicate and appreciate your support.
Monmark

PE Kits - update

Please be reassured that you may send your child to school wearing leggings or jogging bottoms on the days when they have PE. We would ask that they are plain and black, navy or grey in colour.

School Meals – Update

Our providers gave notice of a price increase to £2.20 but this was given at very short notice. They have now decided to retract this increase and meals will remain at £2.10 for this term. Payments that you will have made at the increased price of £2.20 have already been adjusted in ParentPay.

The price of school meals will now increase to £2.20 from Term 2.

Friends of School AGM

Our Friends of School Annual General Meeting takes place on **Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 19:00** in the school hall. This meeting is important to ensure that all interested parties receive annual reports from the chair and treasurer, and that new appointments for key roles can be made, and a committee put in place so that we can begin the new cycle of fundraising and events that our Friends organisation do so brilliantly. Every parent/carer is automatically a member of the organisation. The committee always appreciates new members, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, so if you would like to come along and get involved you will be made very welcome. We can accommodate a limited number of parents in the hall and still keep socially distanced. For us to conduct this meeting safely, **please can you let the office know via email, no later than Friday 18th September 2020** if you plan to attend the meeting so that we can ensure we keep to safe numbers.

Educational Visits

As part of the National Curriculum requirements, and in line with current government COVID guidance, we will aim for all children from all Bases to take part in educational visits and activities throughout the school year. We do have to ask parents for voluntary contributions to pay for entrance fees, coach transport, workshops etc. Costs vary between £2.00—£25.00 depending on the venue and the activity. We have responded to feedback from the parent survey and have developed a new timeline for planning visits, which means that parents will be given at least two weeks' notice regarding any visits requiring payment. We will also endeavour to inform you about more local visits and sporting fixtures in the same time frame. However, we do not always receive confirmation of external and more local events until nearer the time and this impacts on timely communication. Please note that, where a visit requires funds, we will need payment to be made via Parent Pay and by the deadline given. Where sufficient funds are not received a visit may have to be cancelled. Whilst we adjust to the new normal under COVID, external school trips will not begin to take place until at least Term 2 and in accordance with any changing local and national restrictions.

School Fruit and Veg. Scheme

Fruit and vegetables are provided daily for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils only. All other year groups may bring a piece of fruit or vegetable from home to eat during morning break.

Medication

If your child needs medication in school e.g. inhaler, please bring it to the school office and complete a medication form.

Communication

- ParentPay

Just a reminder that our main method of communication with parents is via email through the ParentPay system. It is therefore important that you ensure there is an up to date email contact address on your ParentPay profile. If you wish to add another ParentPay account for your child so both parents/carers have access, please contact the school office and they can set up a secondary account. Do check your emails for information from St John's on a regular basis. Newsletters are usually published weekly on Thursdays and are also available to view on the school website.

- Crediting your ParentPay Account

You can make payments into your ParentPay account and then assign them to payment items as they are requested. This could be helpful when you are planning your finances as you can top up your account whenever you wish.

- Debts

Reminder notices are sent to parents when a balance over £25.00 is outstanding (e.g. school meals, breakfast club, ASCC), if a payment has not been received within 7 days, the school will withdraw the service until the account is cleared. If you have any difficulties in paying, please do contact the school office.

- Medical appointments

If you need to take your child to a medical appointment we do ask if you can provide evidence of this for our attendance records, preferably in advance of the appointment. If your child will be arriving at school after morning registration, would you please advise us whether a school meal will be required that day and, if so, their menu choice to ensure the correct meal is ordered for them. This is particularly important when leaving a telephone message regarding the appointment.

- COVID tests – we would ask that, if your child is absent due to requiring a COVID test, you provide proof of the result to support the absence and the safe return of your child. This can be done by sending the outcome to school via email, screen capture etc.

Attendance

Our attendance for the first three days back at school was an impressive **98%**. Thank you to everyone for making sure your child has returned to school under these difficult and challenging circumstances. I hope that we have done our very best to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to keep your child safe in school, and last week's initial attendance appears to be a good indicator of that.

For now, I will continue to report attendance but will not provide the weekly class breakdown as we are not working in regular circumstances; we expect attendance figures to vary each week due to everyone taking the best precautions necessary. However, we encourage you to continue to send your children to school wherever possible and do contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Photographing children

Please be reminded that we do not allow parents and carers to take photographs of their children on site without prior agreement – for example, when we have a performance or on sports day when we arrange a photo opportunity. It is part of our safeguarding procedure that, on such occasions, only photos of your own child are taken and that no posts are made on social media if a photograph has another child, member of staff or other adult in it. All photographs taken and used by the school can also only be with prior parental permission and a number of our children are not allowed to be photographed. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

School Calendar

The school calendar for 2020-21 has now been finalised and can be found on the school website. Please note many events will be dependant on COVID-19 guidance.

Link: <https://stjohnevangelistbwmat.org/about-us/calendar/>

Headteacher Surgery – change of date

I am very sorry but due to circumstances beyond my control the date for next week's Headteacher Surgery will now be Friday 18th September between 13:45 and 14:45. Due to COVID restrictions, numbers will need to be limited – please email the office if you wish to attend so that we can manage attendance safely. My apologies for any inconvenience caused by the change of date.

A “thank you” from John Lewis.

We have been contacted by The John Lewis Partnership and asked to share the following with our own Homeschooling Heroes – you, our amazing parents and carers!

We would like to congratulate all Home schooling Heroes on a job well done and treat them to a celebratory glass of fizz or a relaxing cup of tea or regular coffee on us, for tutoring their children at home during lockdown. No strings attached, just a simple way of saying 'Well Done!'

This offer is open to you until 16 October, inclusive. To take advantage simply call the Experience Desk on 0117 9581847 to book your place and to receive a voucher which can be redeemed in the Place To Eat Restaurant. I have included a poster with further details, which can be found below.

With every best wish

Ian Doswell

Headteacher

E-Safety



[Link to Parent Zone for weekly updates >](#)

Please be reminded that general safeguarding information can be found on our school website under the policies section. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for our school in Mrs Nicola Short, or Mr Doswell in her absence. If you have any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of any child in our community please do not hesitate to contact them.





Temporary road scheme to support social distancing

Tell us what you think
sustrans.org.uk/spacetomove



01934 888 802

29856 0720



Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. Sustrans has not carried out these changes. Sustrans is a registered charity no. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland).



HOME SCHOOLING HEROES

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

Congratulate yourselves on a job well done and treat yourself to a celebratory glass of fizz, or a relaxing cup of regular coffee or tea, on us, for tutoring your children at home during lockdown.

Simply call our Experience Desk on 0117 9581847 to receive your voucher for use in our Place To Eat Restaurant at John Lewis & Partners Cribbs Causeway.

