

St. John the Evangelist Church School

NEWSLETTER



Term 1.3 Thursday 17th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have had an enjoyable week, so far.



The children continue to amaze and surprise us with their patience and resilience in dealing with the changes and different approaches to the school day, and they are certainly grasping their learning opportunities with enthusiasm. The weather has certainly helped this week and we have been able to make effective use of the school grounds to spread bubbles out at break and lunchtimes and to do as much outdoor learning as possible.

You will have received my first Headteacher's COVID update of this academic year. As I mention at the start of it, I remain hopeful that I will not need to send many of these to you but the situation, and guidance, has started to change again and so it is important I keep you informed. I will also need to make a few slight changes to our Risk Assessment and this should go live tomorrow. It can be found on our website:

[COVID 19 Return to School information](#)

COVID symptoms and sending children home/keeping them off school

With the current testing situation and the ever-changing guidance, being sure of how to manage perceived symptoms is getting tricky, for us in school and, I am sure, for you.

As you will appreciate, we need to be extremely vigilant in school, and whilst our first aid team and teachers are working hard not to over react to every cough and sneeze, it is in everyone's best interests to be extremely careful at this time.

Our main aim at this time must be to keep everyone safe and virus free, and to be able to keep as many children/staff in school for as long as we can, and to avoid any unnecessary frequent, partial, or full closures

If your child is sent home from school you need to seek medical advice from 119, if your child is displaying any of the three main symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

or seek advice in the usual way from your GP/111 if your child is unwell with other symptoms.

Your child should only return to school once you have informed us (by email please) with the outcomes of your enquiries, whether this be because your child requires a test and needs to isolate, or you have been advised to keep them at home as they are poorly with another reason AND also if you have been advised that they are fit to return to school.

Your full adherence to this is both expected and very much appreciated.

Visitors in school

In line with our risk assessment, we need to continue to limit visitors in school. If you need to speak to the office or a member of staff, please do so by email or telephone in the first instance. Parents/carers should not come in to the reception area to speak to the office at this current time, nor enter the school building without prior agreement. Thank you.

Requests for a teacher "Check in" phone call

We are aware that children coming back to school will have raised some anxieties for parents/carers (as well as the children) and that you may have some issues or concerns that you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher. Under normal circumstances, most of these discussions would take place at the end of the day when children are collected. Many of you have been emailing in with questions and I know staff are working hard to try and respond to these promptly.

Teachers had hoped to be able to offer a brief face to face meeting for parents in Term 1 but with the current situation this is not considered safe. Therefore, they will make themselves available for a "touch base" telephone conversation with you in the coming two weeks, if you feel this is necessary and helpful— perhaps to discuss how your child is settling in, or to discuss any concerns you have around learning gaps etc. We appreciate not all parents will want this and so I have devised a request form for you to complete if you would like your child's class teacher to contact you for a brief discussion. Due to numbers, and time available, these discussions will need to take place after school. The call will need to last no more than 10 minutes maximum and will take place over a two week period, starting from Wednesday 23rd September 2020.

If you would like to receive a call, please complete the form that goes with this newsletter. We would be grateful if all requests are received no later than Monday 21st September 2020. Forms should be returned to the office by email office@stje.bwmat.org.

We hope to be able to hold Parent Consultations at the start of Term 2, as part of our normal parent/teacher liaison work but we will need to watch things carefully moving forwards. We will work to providing an alternative if we remain unable to offer face to face meetings.

Back to school questionnaire

I will be sending a new parent/carer questionnaire out in the coming days. This will come to you via Parent Pay in the usual way. It would be extremely useful to gain your views on the current situation, how you feel the school has responded during the pandemic and our arrangements for reopening. Your thoughts and views are important to us, and helpful in planning forward. Please look out for this in your in box.

Friends AGM postponed

Our annual Friends of School AGM was due to take place next week, on Tuesday 22/09/2020. Due to the revised guidance, the committee have agreed to continue to stand for the coming school term and will now hold the AGM in January 2021.

Attendance

Attendance for last week was 95.7%. Under the current circumstances, this is a good figure. Thank you everyone.

School Calendar

See the school website for further details

<https://stjohnevanelistbwmat.org/about-us/calendar>

Starting School 2021/2022

For those of you with children due to start school in September 2021, please see the information 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.

Time to start school

Parents of children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 need to apply for 2021 school places now

Applications open on 12 September 2020
and close at 11.59pm on 15 January 2021



You can apply online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

A Parent's Guide to Starting School will be available on the website from 12 September 2020.

School Admissions Team
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare
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Tel: 01275 884 078
Email: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk
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