

Dover St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Learning for life with God as our guide

Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 4th September 2020

Welcome!

I wish to extend huge thanks to the children, families and staff for what has proved to be a successful start to the new school year this week.

It has been so refreshing to hear and see a whole school full of children and families. I am enormously impressed with how well everyone has adapted to our new working arrangements.

I always knew that one of the most challenging aspects of the day would be collection of children at the end of the day – it certainly is a challenge to match almost 200 children safely to their socially distanced parent/carers at home time!

I thank you for your patience and assistance as we work through this aspect of our arrangements. At the time of writing we have not yet experienced all of the classes being collected at home time so I look forward to seeing how that goes. We will continue to keep all of our arrangements under review and if necessary will modify the timings of collection to help.

I feel that drop-off arrangements are working well and am pleased that we are able to give you all a degree of flexibility to suit your circumstances within a 15 minute window of arrival. I recognise the challenge for those of you with children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 as you need to manage drop-off and collection at two gates. I ask that you co-operate with this arrangement and understand the need for this in terms of keeping everyone safe.

I thank you for waiting in line and sending your children promptly to and through the gate; this helps to speed up the process. The children have been amazing at coming into school from the gates and making their way to the class staff – well done to them all! Thank you also for the new small bags which many of the children have – these are really helping us to manage belongings safely as they can be folded and put into pockets, trays or lockers.

The Year Ahead

TERM DATES

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time, term dates for 2020/2021 are noted below for ease of reference. Information regarding our staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2020/2021

<u>Term 1 2020</u>	Wednesday, 2 nd September – Friday, 23 rd October 2020
<u>Term 2 2020</u>	Monday, 2 nd November – Friday, 18 th December 2020
<u>Term 3 2021</u>	Monday, 4 th January – Friday, 12 th February 2021
<u>Term 4 2021</u>	Monday, 22 nd February – Thursday, 1 st April 2021
<u>Term 5 2021</u>	Monday, 19 th April – Friday, 28 th May 2021
<u>Term 6 2021</u>	Monday, 7 th June – Wednesday, 21 st July 2021

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Wednesday, 21st October 2020
Thursday, 22nd October 2020
Friday, 23rd October 2020
Thursday, 1st April 2021
Wednesday, 21st July 2021

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We will continue to hold a daily act of collective worship, but instead of the children gathering in the school hall this will be held in classrooms.

On Fridays our 'Celebration Assembly' will be led by Mrs Trelfer via Zoom enabling all of the classes to 'come together' on the screens in the classrooms. Dates for Family Assemblies will be shared when we know that these can go ahead.

Please see our school website for the latest information
www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk



SAFETY REMINDERS:

Cars

Please be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4:00pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated. If you are travelling to school by car please note that the St James Retail Park allows 60 minutes free parking (this is any time during the day, but you will need to get a ticket from the machine) and there is no charge before 9am.

Blue Badge holders are the only drivers who should be stopping on the yellow lines in Laureston Place, Maison Dieu or Ashen Tree Lane. It is completely unacceptable for any other drivers to do so during these incredibly challenging times when parents are queuing and waiting to deliver and collect children. I will take a very dim view of anyone who cannot respect the need to enable all members of our school community to be safe.

Classes

Children have been organised into class 'bubbles' in order to reduce the potential spread of infection.

The class bubbles will work and play together and will remain socially distanced from children and staff in other bubbles.

Lunch and morning play will be staggered and drop-off and collection arrangements will be different to usual.

And finally..... A Thought for the Week

Thank you to Reverend Melissa Carter for the following:

**'Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, for the Lord
your God is with you and he will never leave you'**

(Deuteronomy 31:6)

Mobile 'Phones

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

The Week Ahead

Monday 7th – Friday 11th September 2020

Children in classes 1 to 6 are to attend all day, every day.

During this week the children in Reception Class will attend for the morning from 9:00am to 11:45am. Access to the site will be as above. From this week we ask that you say your goodbyes at the gate; class staff will greet the children and take them into school. Children will be brought to you at the Laureston Place gate for dismissal at 11:45am. Please observe social distancing when waiting in the queue.

Hot Lunches

I am pleased to say that as from Monday, 7th September our school kitchen will be able to provide hot meals again for the pupils. Meals cost £2.30 and must be paid for online, in advance, direct to Principals using the following link:-
<https://www.principals-catering.com/>

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 8:00am, breakfast is served until 8:25am, and all children are then supervised in the hall until 8:40am. Your child can choose from a variety of cereals, toast and yoghurts, served with fruit juices or milk. The cost per child is £2.20 per day.

If you would like your child to come along, please contact the office to get a booking form. Bookings can be made termly or weekly as required. We will try to be as flexible as we can where places are available, but forms should be with us 24 hours in advance of when you require the service. **Please do not bring your child to Breakfast Club unless you have booked a place.** Please bring your child to the Laureston Place entrance at 8am where Mrs Punton will be waiting to greet your child and escort them into school.

As always, please don't hesitate to make contact via email or telephone with any queries, comments or concerns you may have.

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