

# St John's Church of England Primary School

JOY of the Lord is Your Strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents,

I am just writing to say a huge thank you for all the support given to us in school this year. We have remained relatively intact as a school (sorry Year 6) in terms of our bubbles and the children have been fantastic in keeping to our procedures and keeping themselves and the rest of our school safe.

We are looking forward to returning to some further normality in September but there will be some changes – positive ones – that have come out of the COVID precautions that we will be looking to keep in school. I have summarised some of these changes below but I add the caveat that these are subject to change depending on how the summer goes in our country!

**Entrance and exit** – this will be back to the single playground entrance at the side of school. This takes away the need to use the car park which is great for safety. School gates will open at 8:40 am and will remain open until 9 am (a little later if you still wish to stagger your journey to school). Teachers will come out to meet classes at 8:45 am and then escort them into class. Children will be marked late if they arrive after 9 am.

At the end of the day, the gate will be opened at 2:55 pm for our back to normal finishing times of:

Reception – 3 pm

Years 1 and 2 – 3:05 pm

Years 3 – 6 – 3:10 pm

**Playtimes** – these will take place at the same time for Years 1 – 6 (Reception is more free flow) with children able to mix. We have invested as a school in a range of activities to keep children active and engaged at playtime and these will be timetabled for specific year groups on certain days allowing for some spacing.

**Lunchtimes** – normal service will resume with all classes using the school hall for lunches and ordering at the hatch. This will allow for a greater choice of food at lunch as well as the return of favourites such as the salad bar. Mrs Bond will add the menus at the start of the new year with children – as ever – able to change their choice of dinner or packed lunch from day to day.

**Bubbles** – will not officially be in place but they remain broadly in place from day to day due to the layout of our school. However, there will be the opportunity for classes to mix if needed during the day.

**Assemblies** – worship time in the hall will return but we will be holding more Key Stage assemblies so that we are less packed into the hall. We have found the slightly smaller assemblies aimed at a smaller range of year groups to be a massive improvement in terms of engagement and responses. We will have some occasions however, when we all meet together and we hope to have the whole school in Church as before for Harvest Festival around the end of September.

**Uniform** – I have sent a separate letter out about uniform expectations from September. There are no changes to uniform, only that children are to continue coming into school in PE kit on the days they have PE lessons. This has been a massive timesaver during the school day and I am sure helps at home.

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**Hygiene** – we will still be ensuring that there are clear hygiene procedures in place during the school day. Children will be expected to wash their hands during the day and at key times such as lunch. Sanitiser and wipes will be readily available in all classes still. Masks on school sites will not be compulsory in September but we leave it to your own personal choice as to whether you wish to wear a face covering on site.

These are some of the key envisaged plans for September but please remember that everything could change. We certainly hope not but, if the worst should happen, I will add an update to Class Dojo nearer the start of term. The children return to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and we look forward to hearing all about wonderful summer adventures and experiences when we return.

Today, we have said a fond farewell to Year 6 who have been such a wonderful class over the years. The service in Church yesterday was lovely and they were brilliant in their end of year 6 production. We will definitely miss them all next year! We also say goodbye to Mrs Hopgood and Mrs Barraclough today and thank them for their hard work over the course of this year and wish them well in the future. Mrs Smith has left her position but we are waiting to find a time in September when she will be able to come in and say goodbye to us all properly.

To all the staff and governors who have worked so tirelessly again this year, I am sure you will join me in thanking them for the work they do in ensuring your children have such an outstanding education. On their behalf I thank you for the many kind words and gifts which have been sent into school.

However, I will leave my talking there for now! Enjoy your summer, have a lovely time with family and friends and we cannot wait to see you in September. Thank you.

Kind Regards

Mr Thomson