

# St John's Church of England Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter, continue to be healthy and safe and that the Easter Bunny saw fit to bring a few treats at this time of year. We are back in school from today, continuing to provide care for the children of critical workers and we continue to thank them for their continued hard work and dedication in these challenging times.

As I am sure you will have heard by now, the government have continued to close schools until further notice, except for children of critical workers and those children classed as 'vulnerable'. The Department for Education will only re-open school sites once scientific evidence supports that it is safe to do so. If you are a critical worker or parent of a child classed as vulnerable and need to use the child care available at St. John's, please get in touch via phone (01704 227441) or email ([enquiries@stjohnsprimary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnsprimary.co.uk)) or return one of the booking forms available on the website.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April would have been the start of the summer term and it will seem strange having such an empty school during the months when better weather and outdoor activities make learning so much fun! New topics would have been started in many classes and we would hate children to miss out on the enjoyment that being part of 'their class' brings! From next week, each class will be setting weekly timetables enabling children and parents to structure each day a little more should you wish. In addition, Class Dojo will be used as a communication platform and teachers will be uploading topic mats to their class pages (much like the homework mats for the rest of the year). It is by no means compulsory for children to complete any of the home learning activities but we hope that dipping in and out and forming your own personalised timetables will benefit you and your child! We aim for a lot of the activities to be completed online but, as ever, if there is anything you require printing, please contact us at school. Teachers are currently finalising arrangements for the new home learning structure and we are aiming to email out / upload letters to the website tomorrow.

You should receive the following letters:

- Class Dojo instructions for parents
- Class Dojo rules
- Top tips for working with your child(ren)

Teachers have been asked to upload the weekly timetable for the following week on Friday afternoons if possible to ensure you have time to plan time effectively.

I hope you all have seen the very special video uploaded to the website from the staff and governors at St. John's – it is there to bring everyone a little JOY. The video is available on our Home Learning page of the website. A huge thank you to all the staff for their participation, to Colin the DJ for the moves and to Miss Lovelock for the technical know-how!

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Can I also now say thank you (I saw it half way through writing this letter) to all those who contributed to the lovely video featuring so many of the pupils at St. John's. It has brought a tear to the eye of many staff who miss the day-to-day school life terribly. Thank you all for cheering us up with the lovely messages, gorgeous photos, great dancing, sublime sporting skills and everything else that went into making us HAPPY! You are all superstars and we miss you all.

Back to the original letter now! Thank you also to those children (and families) who have sent us examples of work or messages into school. During difficult times, these messages have been very much appreciated by all of us; we would love them to continue. Class dojo will enable communication between home and school or any examples can be sent to our enquiries email address.

There are a couple of staffing changes to make everyone aware of at this time. Both Mrs Thomas and Mrs Smith, who have been off on maternity leave, are returning to St. John's and whilst you may not see them during these strange times, they will take up the same roles within school. Mrs Hopgood will be leaving us at the end of this week – though she will be back to visit when we are back at school – and we thank her for everything she has given to St. John's during her return with us. Mrs Bond will continue to be with us in the office as well as Mrs Smith – we will give clarification on their roles / hours once we are back in school.

Staff are currently working their way through making phone calls to all families. This is purely to say hello and check everything is OK. If we haven't go to you yet, rest assured, your time will come! We are here in school if you need to speak to us or drop us an email to request a call back. These are challenging and uncertain times and sometimes it is just nice to chat with somebody not in your house. We will endeavour to keep you updated – at least weekly – and there is a plethora of information on our website. Included is information about how to chat about coronavirus with your child as this can be a particularly stressful time for them. If anybody feels they need support beyond what is available on the website or from giving us a ring, CAMHS Liverpool offer the following support details:

Children and young people, parents and carers in crisis can call the

Alder Hey CAMHS crisis care line 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **0151 293 3577**

Along with this letter, I have also attached a poster from the NHS which gives some valuable information on which form of healthcare to access should you child be injured or require medical assistance.

For any children who receive free school meal entitlement, I will be continuing to contact parents regarding setting up E-vouchers which can be redeemed at many supermarkets. Originally, the scheme was term-time only, but the government have recently stated that vouchers can be applied for during holidays too. Please bear with us a little as the government website is overloaded and I need to order them through school before they can be distributed. Should you not be in receipt of free school meals entitlement but are struggling at the moment, please contact us at school for a confidential chat and we will always see what we can do to help.

Any parents who have chosen St. John's for their child to start Reception in September should find out later this week whether their application was successful. Parents find out before we do (as long as you

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provided an email address); we will contact parents about plans for transition as soon as possible. Once again, the watch word is patience as so little is known about plans for returning to school.

I think that is about all the updates I have for now. I will continue to send regular updates to you all but hope in the meantime that you all stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind Regards

Mr Phil Thomson