

St John's Church of England Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have made it through to half term which I must say has been the strangest of my career so far and certainly not something I want to repeat. Hopefully we are now starting the long journey back to 'normality' and we can only hope we get to see everyone back at St. John's soon.

Hopefully you have seen the letters sent this week from Sefton Local Authority and Southport Learning Partnership. If you haven't read them yet they are available on Class Dojo and our school website.

One of the key points from these letters is that the phased return of children will not start until June 15th – at the earliest. This allows us the necessary time to plan and put into action how a return to school will work safely for all concerned. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of plans for St. John's. This week, we have been ringing parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (who are not already using the key worker service) to speak to them at length about our potential plans and their thoughts on a return to school. Returning to school is not compulsory at this time and is a decision you must ultimately make at home.

In the meantime, we continue to stay open for the children of key workers or those who would be classed in vulnerable groups. Children do need to be booked in in advance to use this facility to ensure we have enough staff and classrooms to ensure social distancing. Booking forms are available on the website and from the office or please feel free to contact us in school.

We will be open over half term, including the bank holiday on Monday. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we are delighted that Neil and Peter from PDS will be overseeing the sessions and giving the teachers a bit of a rest during half term. Members of school staff will be on site during the day in case they are needed but both Neil and Peter have been working with us and the children throughout the lockdown period and know the children so well.

We ask that children come in clothing suitable for some P.E. and outdoor fun and games on these days. I would also suggest a water bottle and hat / sun cream as appropriate. With these warmer days, I would suggest a water bottle, hat and sun cream each day children attend please.

As it is half term, we are giving staff and children a break from the home learning. This will continue week commencing 1st June for all year groups. I know all the teachers have enjoyed reading the messages and viewing the work; please feel free to contact us with anything fun you have been up to over half term!

Isabelle in Year 2 was the latest winner of the weekly challenge – huge congratulations to her and she has been in to pick up her prize. I have enjoyed seeing some of the blindfolded portraits so far – please

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continue to send them in until the deadline later today. BOYS – we have had three girls picked out as winners of the challenge so far – get your entries in please!

The Department for Education have published updated information, guidance and support for parents and carers of children who are learning at home during the coronavirus outbreak. The link is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

NHS MerseyCare have also sent us information about a new helpline for adults who may be struggling with worries or stress during the current pandemic. I have included a poster with this letter giving further information.

Lastly, I attach the latest crime prevention leaflet from Merseyside Police which includes advice and information to help keep you and your family safe.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all who have been keeping our spirits up at school. Deliveries of treats, cards, examples of work, popping in to say hello whilst passing have all been so welcome. We are endeavouring to keep in touch with every family but if there is ever anything we could potentially help with, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We hope that you are able to enjoy the half term and we look forward to the second half of the summer term with the hope that we will see you all back at St. John's soon.

Kind Regards and stay safe

Mr P Thomson