

# St John's Church of England Primary School

'The JOY of the Lord is Your Strength' (Nehemiah 8:10)  
Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the latest weekly update. It certainly helps that these are being written every week as our plans seem to change so often at the moment!

The long awaited return of Year 6 has been put back for a week. A number of our eldest pupils were due to return on the 15<sup>th</sup> but this will now not be until Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the earliest. Any decision will be made by Sefton and we will send a final confirmation late next week.

We continue to make plans for a potential return for our youngest pupils and will keep you updated if we feel that we are able to open for children in Reception and Year 1. As a small school, we are limited in terms of classroom space to ensure social distancing and the number of staff available to supervise children. Anyone keeping up to date with the news will see the regularity with which guidance and guidelines are changing so please watch this space and we shall let you know if we go ahead with any plan to increase the number of classes at St. John's.

For parents of children in other year groups, I am sure you will have heard the government announcement that there are now no plans to invite back Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 before the summer holidays. We can only assure all children and families that you are missed and that we are working hard to ensure we are able to return to some semblance of normality as soon as we are able and it is safe to do so.

Our provision for children of Key Workers continues unchanged. If you need to make use of this service for the first time, you must let us know the week before provision is due to start so that we can make preparations. Children are all allocated to specific groups and given their own desk and all their own resources so it is vital we know in advance. Children already registered need to fill in a booking form each week so we can plan staffing and timetables accordingly. Our booking forms are on the website and in the foyer: alternatively, give the office a ring.

Children will all need to continue to bring a packed lunch to school for the foreseeable future as our caterers, Mellors, are not returning yet. Children should only have their lunchbox and a drink bottle with them each day aside from any clothing / items appropriate for the weather such as coats or sun cream. A snack for playtime in the morning is fine but please remember that we have children and staff in school with severe nut allergies so please do not bring food containing nuts into school. As little equipment / resources as possible should be making the journey from home into school and vice versa as possible - children should not need backpacks or pencil cases at this time.

Home learning continues and we hope to start linking up the learning set at home with that taking place in school. Each week in school we are focusing on a specific country – Scotland and China so far – with work

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and activities based on that country. Last week, Miss Lovelock trialled a virtual classroom on the Year 5 Class Dojo page and this is something we plan to expand to other year groups in the future.

Our weekly challenge fits with our next country to be the focus on learning – Italy! I love a good pizza so the challenge this week is to design me a new pizza (complete with appropriate name). Tips for the children - I love trying new food (especially meat!), will eat anything (except peas) and really enjoy food that has a kick! Thank you to those who entered the challenge this week – our winner will be announced later.

Whilst we can't see you regularly, we still do want to keep in contact. Class Dojo is there to help build a link between home and school and the website will give you plenty of useful information and activities. Miss Lovelock is currently ringing families for a chat: the purpose of this chat is to say hello, check you are all OK and see if we can be of any help in any way. If you miss her call, feel free to ring school to say hello.

The next batch of vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals will be sent out next week. Please let me know if your voucher does not arrive as we had a couple of minor issues last time out. If your child attends school (Key worker group or Y6), then you are still eligible for the vouchers until the government end the scheme; at this time, I have no idea on their plans for the summer holidays.

That is about it for now. As always, we will keep you updated on the latest guidance from central and local government. Hopefully, the picture within the north-west will improve so we are able to start the wider re-opening of St. John's by inviting Year 6 back into school. In the meantime, should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us at school.

Kind Regards and stay safe

Mr P Thomson