

St John's Church of England Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope you and your families continue to be in good health and are able to enjoy some of the lovely weather this week.

We have seen the return to school for many of our Year 6 children this week and Miss Halsall has been delighted:

It has been so lovely having some of our year 6 pupils back at St. John's after such a long time of being apart! Seeing their smiley faces at the gate on Monday morning was the best start to the week! We have had so much fun in the last few days - catching up and hearing about each other's lockdown experiences to chocolate tasting and enjoying hours of fun outside! Both children and teachers have had the best week and long may it continue as we approach the end of term! Although this isn't the ideal end to Year 6's time at St. John's, we will try and make it the best we can - we have lots of things planned so watch this space!

A huge thank you must go to the staff who have made the return to school for Year 6 so lovely. More children are due to return next week so that they can see friends and teachers before they leave for high schools. If you would like your child to return please contact us to arrange a start date and to check whether we have room as there are only so many children we can fit in a classroom currently!

At this time, it is just Year 6 who are able to attend in addition to the key worker group. This decision is based upon the number of staff who are available to work as well as having enough available space within our small school. Given current guidance, the maximum class size we can operate at St. John's is 12 for older children and 10 for younger meaning we have very limited capacity compared to normal. We will continue to review the situation in line with guidance received from Sefton and central government and let you know should our provision change.

Should you be a key worker and need provision at St. John's, please get in touch. The government have directed that the children of key workers and any children who may be classed as 'vulnerable' are our ultimate priority and we shall always try to fit your needs into our provision. Booking forms are filled in each week and now need to be returned by Wednesday of the following week so that we can plan accordingly. If any forms are received after Wednesday, then it may not be possible to meet your needs for the following week.

Mrs Thomas has also been very busy preparing for our new Reception class to start in September: *We are looking forward to meeting our new Reception class who will be joining school this September. Whilst some families are familiar with St. John's already, some families are completely new to our school and we would like to take the opportunity to warmly welcome everyone to the St. John's family. Due to current circumstances our transition process looks somewhat different this year; however Reception staff have worked hard to plan lots of transition activities to help prepare the children for starting school, albeit*

Rufford Road, Crossens, Southport, PR9 8JH
admin.stjohnscrossens@schools.sefton.gov.uk
www.stjohnsprimary.co.uk

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virtually at this time! One way we hope to connect teachers with parents and children is by setting up a Class Dojo page which will be a great tool to help the children to put a name to a face, see their classroom and meet peers through videos and photographs shared. Mrs Thomas is looking forward to connecting with all of our new children on Dojo next week!

Home learning activities will continue to be set through our website and Class Dojo – we hope you are still finding these resources useful to dip into. We are happy to print any resources you may need for you and these can be left outside the office for collection. This is a time (and paper) consuming process so please make sure you remember to come and pick up packs!

This week, in school and in our virtual classrooms, children have been learning about India. Mr and Mrs Corbett came in to speak to the key worker groups about India with the children fascinated. They will be in again next week as the learning moves on to Mexico! They have both been a fantastic support to children and staff throughout the coronavirus pandemic and we cannot thank them enough for everything they give to St. John's.

Teachers have been busy preparing end-of-year reports and we will be posting these out on Friday 10th July unless your child is in school that day as part of the key worker group. The reports will not be the same format as usual due to the 'curtailed' year but we hope they still give plenty of information about your child's strengths and accomplishments as well as any little targets for the future!

Thank you to all parents who have completed the comments sheet and sent a recent photo of their child into school – this has really helped to personalise the reports. If you haven't yet done so, please send us a photo of your child via email or Class Dojo and we would like answers to the following questions:

What did your child enjoy most this year?

What is your child looking forward to next year?

We do need these photos and comments back in as soon as possible if we are to add them to your child's report.

I will leave it there for another week. We marked three months since the period of lockdown started earlier this week and hopefully the continued lifting of restrictions will enable us to return to normality as soon as we are able. As a school we are working as hard as we can to translate Sefton and government guidance into what works at our school. Should you ever have any questions about any aspect of our provision at St. John's, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Mr P Thomson