

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

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*'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'*

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

### **Farewells**

We say a fond farewell to our lovely Class 6 children this week and wish them every continued success. The children and families gathered for an al fresco Leavers' Service on the playground on Monday afternoon – we were joined also by the children and staff from Classes 3, 4 and 5. The Year 6 children shared their memories from their time at primary school. Each member of the class was gifted a book. They have also produced a yearbook with memories about all members of the class – a lovely keepsake.

As you will also know from previous letters we also say goodbye to Mrs Lewis who is leaving St Margaret's this term – I know you will all join with me in wishing her well. Mr Nick Rogers, one of our school cleaners is also moving on to take up a gardening position with English Heritage.

### **And Hello!**

We welcome new staff to the team who will start with us in September. Ms Laura Claringbould will be joining us as a midday supervisor and Mrs Maria Lane as a cleaner.

We also, of course, welcome a whole class full of new Reception children as well as children who will be joining other classes across the school.

### **Thank you**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend huge thanks to all members of our school community – children, families, staff and governors – who have all worked together so successfully during this last year. Thank you for bearing with us and complying with the covid-safe measures we have had in place and for your understanding. The staff have all been brilliant – working tirelessly, always with the best interests of the children at heart.

### **Looking Forward**

Children in Classes 1-6 return to school on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** for the beginning of Term 1. Reception Class children will attend also for stay and play sessions – parents have already received information regarding the timings of their sessions.

At the time of writing this letter there is no requirement for us to have in place social distancing arrangements or to keep the classes – bubbles – of children and/or families separate.



### **Drop-off arrangements will be as follows:-**

The three gates to access the playground will open at **8.35am** – Droveaway Gardens gate will be back in use. Classroom doors will open at this time also and children will go straight into class. Children must arrive by **8.50am**. Parent/carers may bring children onto the playground. To start with, I respectfully ask that you do not enter the main reception to go to the office hatch – please continue to liaise with the office staff via telephone and email while we review how these arrangements are working.

### **Collection Arrangements:-**

All classes will be dismissed at 3.15pm. The three gates to the playground will be open from 3.05pm. Please come on site and stay on the playground in an area outside your child's classroom. Parent/carers collecting children from Classes 3 and 4 should wait in the area outside their classroom doors. When the staff can see you and have had eye contact with you they will send your child to you.

### **Before School and After School Childcare Services**

These will resume from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September – information has already been sent out with regards making bookings.

### **Covid Arrangements**

Within the new school guidance from the Government there will no longer be a requirement to keep children separated into bubbles at school nor for whole groups of children to isolate if one tests positive for covid.

If your child has symptoms of covid they must not attend school and should have a PCR test. If anyone in your household has symptoms and/or tests positive your child must not attend school. The PHE stay at home guidance is to be followed and you should keep school informed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We no longer need to be notified outside of office hours of positive cases.

We will continue to keep all rooms well ventilated with windows open and will continue with good hand and nose hygiene. Hand sanitising and hand washing will continue to be a normal part of daily life at school which will help to reduce the spread of all infections.

### **School Meals**

All children in Classes R, 1 and 2 will continue to be entitled to a free cooked school lunch every day and these are highly recommended.

Children in our current Class 2 who have benefited from the free cooked lunch will, from September when they join Class 3, pay for their cooked school lunches with children in Classes 4, 5 and 6 unless they are entitled to means tested Free School Meals. If you need help to apply for Means Tested Free School Meals please contact the school office.

The cost of a school dinner in September will be £2.35. **Please note** that payment online direct to Whole School Meals is the only method for payment. To pay online use the following link <https://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/wsm/>. Cash/cheques will not be accepted.



### **PE Kits**

From the beginning of the new term in September children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school as they used to before Covid. This should be in a draw-string bag which they will keep on their peg. No carrier bags please. Reception Class will only need plimsolls in a draw-string bag from week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September. Once the term begins teachers will let you know which days each class has PE.

### **Pierced Ears**

Children cannot wear ear-rings during PE. If you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced please do so at the beginning of the school summer holiday so they have time to heal in order for them to take their ear-rings out for PE lessons at school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Water Bottles**

The water fountains will continue to be out of use so please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime.

### **Dates**

Dates for next year are being finalised and will be shared with you in September. A couple which you may wish to note are included here.

To confirm information already sent out, all five training (INSET) days for the year will be from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October which is the week before half term – this may be of interest if you are looking to book a holiday.

In addition we have booked tickets for the Marlowe Theatre Pantomime for all children in Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 to attend during the last week of term before we break up for Christmas. Obviously this trip will be subject to whatever covid arrangements we are living at the time.

### **And finally....**

If school guidance regarding covid changes during August and we have to go back to the staggered and socially distanced drop-off and collection arrangements I will write to you on 31<sup>st</sup> August to advise you.

I wish you all a good summer wherever you are and whatever you are doing and look forward to seeing you at school in the autumn.

Yours sincerely



**Helen Comfort**  
**Executive Headteacher**

