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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

31st August 2021

Ref: Office\Letters\Letters2020-2021\WelcomeSeptember2021.doc

Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome Back!

I hope you and your children are all as well as can be expected and that you have managed to have some 'down-time' over the holiday even though the weather has not been as kind to us as it might have been.

Please note below information to help you with your child's start at school this week.

Please be assured that there are no changes to the delivery and collection arrangements outlined in my letter to you dated 21st July 2021 for Classes 1-6 and 23rd July 2021 for Class R.

There are some general changes with regards managing COVID-19 in light of the latest government guidance which I would like to draw your attention to.

1. It is no longer recommended to keep children in consistent class group 'bubbles'. We will therefore be re-introducing Assembly in the school hall over the coming days and will be looking at developing lunchtime arrangements also. At morning break more than one class will be able to be outside at the same time.
2. Children and staff with symptoms of COVID, or who have tested positive, must not attend school, as before. Schools are no longer required to undertake any tracking and tracing work – the NHS will do this from now on. If your child tests positive 'out of hours' we do not need to know until the morning of the first day of absence – as with all sickness absence.
3. If a child or member of staff comes into contact with someone who has tested positive they need to arrange a PCR test, but should continue to attend school/work while awaiting the result (provided they are well and have no symptoms of COVID). This is a significant change to previously.
4. If a member of a class tests positive for COVID there will not be an automatic closure of the class – again this is a significant change to previously.
5. There is no longer a need to have segregated drop-off and collection arrangements as we no longer need to keep classes separated – please see below for relevant timings etc.
6. I anticipate that we will be able to have parent/carers back in school for meetings, assemblies, etc. – I will advise you when this is the case. For the time being please remain on the playground at drop-off and collection time and continue to liaise with the school office via telephone and email.



We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards, gifts and best wishes received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting us with our change of routines to keep everyone safe and well.

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.

As always please let the school office know if anyone other than you is going to collect your child.

Childcare Services

A reminder that our Before and After School Childcare Services start week beginning 6th September. If you have not already done so and you would like to access this service, you will need to register your child. The Childcare Service will then be available for you to use either on a regular or ad-hoc basis. Please email or telephone the school office to request a form.

'Meet the teacher'

Class teachers will be creating some powerpoints with important information for the coming year. These will include: curriculum, homework/reading, forthcoming trips/special weeks/events, ways to help at home and school, ways to raise concerns and ask questions. We will let you know when these are available to view on the school website.

Sport

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 13th September.

Children in all classes participate in two PE lessons a week, one of these being led by Dominic Castle, our Sports Coach. Over time we have seen ever increasing skill and fitness levels within the children as a result of this provision. Once the term begins teachers will let you know which days each class has PE. As a minimum, children in classes 1- 6 need a pair of blue shorts, a team coloured T-shirt, a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and a pair of trainers to work outside.

We suggest that tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a warm top are brought in for outdoor games during the colder months.



I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter and look forward to seeing 100% sport participation at St Margaret's!

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.

Reading books

All children will bring home a reading book and reading contact book during the week beginning 6th September. Further information regarding home reading expectations will be shared with you by the teaching staff.

Reception class parent/carers – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from www.pmgschoolwear.co.uk. Remember to use our voucher code **STMCF** for free delivery. These bags are essential in keeping our stock of reading books in good order.

We recognise that as they move into upper Key Stage 2 children will start to not use a reading book bag and ask, therefore, that parent/carers assist their children in looking after the books.

SAFETY REMINDERS:

Cars

Please may I remind car drivers that **only staff** are permitted to drive onto the school premises between **8:30am and 3:30pm** and those parents who have a prior arrangement with the school due to mobility reasons. Please also be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated.

Mobile 'Phones

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is for use by school age children at play and lunchtime. The equipment is NOT to be used by any children after school hours with or without parental supervision and is not designed for pre-school children to use.

TERM DATES

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time term dates for 2021/2022 are noted below for ease of reference. Information regarding our staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2021-2022

TERM 1 2021

1 September 2021 - 22 October 2021



TERM 2 2021	1 November 2021 - 17 December 2021
TERM 3 2022	4 January 2022 - 11 February 2022
TERM 4 2022	21 February 2022 - 1 April 2022
TERM 5 2022	19 April 2022 - 27 May 2022
TERM 6 2022	6 June 2022 - 22 July 2022

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Monday, 18th October 2021
 Tuesday, 19th October 2021
 Wednesday, 20th October 2021
 Thursday, 21st October 2021
 Friday, 22nd October 2021

Dates for 2021/2022 Academic Year

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please note however, that although events are planned, they are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing situation with COVID19.

Term 1

09.09.21	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
w/b 27.09.21	Harvest week
w/b 11.10.21	Class 5 residential trip
13.10.21	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm (Classes R, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6)

Term 2

04.11.21	Class 6 Parents' information meeting regarding residential trip at 2:30pm
08.11.21	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6:30pm (by appointment)
10.11.21	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6:30pm (by appointment)
26.11.21	Class 5 Family Assembly at 9am
07.12.21	KS2 Carol Concert at 2pm and 6pm in the Church
08.12.21 and 09.12.21	KS1 Christmas Play in the School Hall (PM) – Time to be confirmed
10.12.21	Class R 'Stay and Play' at 1:30pm
14.12.21	Christmas Dinner Day
15.12.21	KS2 Pantomime trip to The Marlowe Theatre
16.12.21	'Party' Day

Term 3

14.01.22	Class 3 Family Assembly at 9am
24.01.22	Art Exhibition at the Pines Calyx (9am to 3pm)
w/b 02.02.22	Year 6 Enterprise Week
09.02.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
11.02.22	Class R 'Stay and Play' at 1:30pm



Term 4

w/b 21.02.22	Year 5 Enterprise week
03.03.22	Class 4 residential trip (for Year 5) Parents' information meeting 2:30pm
03.03.22	World Book Day
04.03.22	Class 2 Family Assembly at 9am
07.03.22	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
09.03.22	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
w/b 21.03.22	KS1 and Year R Enterprise Week
31.03.22	Spring Concert. Class performances at 2:30pm in the school hall
01.04.22	Spring Concert. Class performances at 9am in the school hall

Term 5

w/b 25.04.22	Year 3 Enterprise week
29.04.22	Class 4 Family Assembly at 9am
02.05.22	BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
w/b 13.05.22	KS2 SATs week for Class 6
23.05.22 to 26.05.22	Class 6 Residential Trip
18.05.22	Open Afternoon (Classes R to 5) at 3:15pm

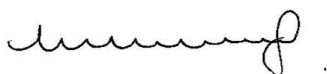
Term 6

14.06.22	Sports Day (PM)
15.06.22	Reserve Sports Day (PM)
17.06.22	Class 1 Family Assembly at 9am
20.06.22	Class R and Nursery Sports Afternoon 1:45pm
21.06.22	Musical Showcase in school hall at 3:30pm
13.07.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
14.07.22	Class 6 Play at the Village hall at 6pm
15.07.22	Grand Day Out
21.07.22	Class 6 Leavers' Service at 2.15pm in the school hall
21.07.22	Family Picnic at 3:15pm

We will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



Ms H Comfort
Executive Headteacher

