

Newsletter No 1: Term 1

Sept 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year! It is nearly the summer break and for those in school who have worked to keep the school open to provide care for Key workers and Vulnerable Children they are looking forward to a well earned break. I am sure that you will join me in thanking the team for all that they have done in serving our school community over the last year. I am very lucky to have such a wonderful team who go above and beyond.

Retirement after 25 years and a couple of goodbyes!

There is a small number of our school team moving on to new things from September. Firstly, Mrs Angie Menear (TA in Year 1) is retiring after 25 years of service to our school. Mrs Menear started as a Teaching Assistant at St Matthias Infant School all the way back in 1995. Huge congratulations to you Angie! We are so grateful for all that you have done and all that you will continue to do. The best news is that Angie will be back as a volunteer, so our children will still benefit from Angie's amazing skills!

We are also saying goodbye to two of our SEND TAs as well at the end of this term. Nicki Lockyer will be leaving to start teacher training and Laura Collins will be moving on to a new TA position as her child moves onto Secondary school. Thanks for all you have done!

Last week of term

As you already know our school will close on Wednesday, 15th July at the end of the day to enable other year groups to come onto the school site to say good bye.

A reminder of the slots for each year group onsite visit are listed below:

Year 1 Thursday 9-10am

Year 2 Thursday 10.15-11.15am

Year 3 Thursday 11.30- 12.30pm

Year 4 Thursday 1.15pm – 2.15pm

Year 5 Thursday 2.30-3.30pm

Each child will receive their End of Year Report when they visit. Please make sure you arrive at the main gates at a time between the slots listed for your child's **current** year group as staff teams will only be out on our playground in the slots outlined. Everyone will travel through the school site and leave via the gate behind the Old Library.

Nursery Friday 9-9.30am

Reception Friday 9.30-10am (nb. this is only for those who have not attended school as they will already have their reports on Weds 15th)

If you are a Key Worker who has requested a place for child care on Thursday 16th and the morning of Friday 17th, you should have received a text message outlining the provision for your child. Please note if you have not requested care already, there will not be provision in place for your child.

Y6 Leavers' Assembly on Zoom – 9.30-10.15 (ish!) Friday, 17th July

All children in Year 6 and their parents /carers are invited to join our Leavers Service on Zoom. The celebration will be a mixture of remembering good times during the children's time at Fishponds and taking time to think about the exciting times to come. Mrs Fox Gaven (Y5/6 Leader and Year 6 teacher) along with Miss Scott will lead the proceedings. Both myself and Rev Lizzie will say a few words as well to wish them well as we say goodbye. Look forward to seeing as many of our Year 6 families then. Please join using the codes below!

Y6 will then attend school in small groups throughout the day. Parents /carers will have a text message to say which group their child is in and what time to come onto site. Leavers' T- shirts or Hoodies and your child's school reports will be handed out at this time too.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Courage

Questions of the Week

Week 7: How can we be courageous in offering friendship to everyone?

Join us on Monday 15th @ 10am on Zoom for our final Collective Worship of the year. We will be thinking of our question of the week as we prepare to move on to our new year groups?

Value of the Term ' Hope' for Term 1 2020

We will be focusing on the value of 'Hope' as we come together as a whole school community again. We have also chosen the learning behaviours of 'Collaboration' as our additional focus. This will be especially important for us all to think carefully about how we work together well when there is still the need to socially distance!

Have your family circumstances changed since your child was last in school?

As we return to school in September, we recognise that your family circumstances may have changed. Maybe there has been bereavement, relationship breakdown or other circumstance change. Please let one of the Pastoral / Safeguarding team know as soon as possible so that we can support you and your child in the best way possible.

Please don't suffer in silence – we are here to support you! Give us a ring.

Give us a call at school 0117 9030491
(Mrs Coker or Miss Goodman will be there to help)
If you need support during the holiday period, visit the safeguarding pages of the school website for phone numbers of agencies who can help.

Plans for re-opening in September 2020.

As you know, the Government has directed schools to welcome all year groups back in September. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again! We have now read the hefty guidance pack and have been busy carrying out our risk assessments. We now have a broad outline of a plan which is shared below.

(Please note, however, this is subject to change due to any changing advice from the Government related to the R rate of infection nearer the time of return).

We will be thrashing out the details of the risk assessment over the next week with DBAT and our Local Board. Once agreed, a copy of our Risk Assessment and accompanying documents will be uploaded to the school's website under the Covid - 19 page (under Parent Tab). All plans will be confirmed at the end of August and sent out by email to parent/ carers.

Week 1

Sept 1st -4th will be a transition week to support our children and families in learning the new routines of drop off and pick up. Managing the transition in slightly smaller groups will enable the children to be confident with new routines as well as enabling the school to iron out any issues that may arise before the Monday 7th September when everyone starts full time. (See organisation below)

Monday, 31 st August	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday, 1 st September	INSET training (school closed)
Wednesday, 2 nd September	Reception and Nursery class visits start SEND / Vulnerable children 1:1 visits (invitation only)
Thursday, 3 rd September	Half of school in on trial day Children with surnames A- K only please (note children with surnames L-Z stay at home)
Friday, 4 th September	Half of school in on trial day Children with surnames L-Z only please (note children with surnames A - K stay at home)

Week 2:

All children proposed to be back to school on Sept 7th full time with the adjustments below. Again, once our full risk assessment is agreed we will send out further information.

Main points of adjustment:

- Staggered start to the school day to limit numbers of children / families arriving on site at one time.
- Staggered finish to the school day to limit numbers of children / families arriving on site at one time.
- Children will be taught in Class groups within a year group bubble. They will not have contact with children outside of this bubble to limit any potential spread of the virus.
- Lunch will be packed lunches only (either from home or provided by school for those who normally have school dinners) and will be eaten in classrooms. All dinner monies will be paid via Schoolcomms, no cash please.
- Any outdoor playtimes / PE sessions will be timetabled and take place in specific zones to ensure that children from different bubbles do not mix.
- We are hoping to provide a breakfast club provision but this will be subject to having an appropriate risk assessment. This will be confirmed at a later date.
- Fishponds After School Club have offered to run an afterschool club provision – we are working with them to risk assess whether this can be managed safely. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.
- Increased hygiene and cleaning measures will be in place throughout the school day.
- Face to face contact will continue to be limited and all messages / questions or concerns should be shared via the school office on telephone or email.
- Uniform – if items of new uniform are required for September, please purchase via Schoolcomms. The order will then be completed and given to your child as soon as we are able.

Message from the Chair of the Local Board (Governors)

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

On July 17th we come to the end of this school year. What a year it has been! None of us would ever have imagined that since March we would all be living in very different circumstances!

The Governors are so pleased that in September all children will be returning. The organisation of the day and distancing arrangements will be in place so that all of your children and the staff will keep safe.

We are very proud of the whole school community for the way everyone has adapted and been understanding of the multiple restrictions and changes.

The Local Board wish all Year Six pupils, other children leaving the school and their families every success for the future.



DBAT Packed Lunch

A choice of Sandwich

Cheese on Wholemeal Bread

Ham on White Bread

Tuna Mayonnaise on Wholemeal Bread

Or Egg Mayonnaise on White Bread

A little pocket of raisins

Freshly cut vegetable sticks

Green Apple, Red Apple, Pear or Banana

Freshly made tray bake of the day

Important information about School Lunches in September

I am very pleased to announce that DBAT schools have negotiated a new contract to supply our school lunches. The new Company's name is Sodexo, and they will be providing our lunches when we return to school in September.

We have met with the new Company and there are some very exciting things happening on the horizon when they get established in our school - a new menu, tasting sessions, Pitch and Patch (more on them to come) and a group called 'Agents from Change' who are Ambassadors from the upper year groups and discussions will be held to shape the way school dinners are presented in our school.

As for September - as you can imagine the way we operate school dinners will look different in school for a while until guidelines can allow the children to gather and eat in the Main Hall.

For the beginning of term unfortunately we will not be able to serve a hot dinner to the children but a packed lunch provision will be available. Please see the attached flyer stating the choices available.

As always, those children eligible for Universal Free School Meals (children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) or children eligible for Free School Meals (please phone the Office if, because of a change in your circumstances, you are now receiving a lower income due to the recent disruption due to COVID'19) will be entitled to a free school meal.

Children who do not fall into the categories above - **the cost will be £2.30** per meal and will need to be paid in advance of your child taking the meal. As above, all dinners will need to be paid via Schoolcomms in September.

That said, yes, we will start the term with packed school lunches only (or of course your child can bring their own packed lunch), but as soon as we are able and can arrange the change, we will be returning to a hot school meal/salad bar.