



St James' Church of England Junior School

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"With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together."

4th September 2020

Well, it has been a busy few days for families, children and staff but it has been a delight to see and hear a full school of children laughing and learning this week. Pretty much every element of the way the school operates has had to be looked at and changed where necessary to meet guidance. This will be a gradual learning curve but I would like to thank families for their understanding and also the kind messages of encouragement as we start the 'new normal' of schooling.

Reflecting upon the last two days, I am delighted with the many things that have gone well and feel confident that there are smaller practical tweaks we can make to improve things further.

Collecting at home time

Classes will continue to come out in the order explained. As of Monday we will tweak the times as we don't feel we need a buffer between bubbles. The new pick up times will be:

Class 4 Mrs Pickering/Miss Morgan 3pm

Class 5 Mr Tyson 3:05pm

Class 6 Mrs Foye 3:10pm

Class 1 Mr King 3:15pm – ***please note 5 min earlier***

Class 2 Mr Carruthers 3:20pm – ***5 min earlier***

Class 3 Mrs Kitchen 3:25pm – ***5 min earlier***

If children are being collected, we ask that all parents **come on site** and **queue** on the playground, then **exit from the front car park**. This will be for all classes and will reduce children crossing past each other at the main gate. Year 5 & 6 children can leave the site on their own if you are giving permission to walk home or to walk to the car.

Home School Agreement

It is vitally important that parents keep on top of the information coming out of school. Children have all been issued with a home school agreement that we would like signed and returned to school. An electronic version will be emailed to you so that you can access a copy from home.

Coloured Pencils

For those who have not done so yet, can I ask that children come to school with a small collection of coloured pencils that can be kept in school in their stationary folders for them to use just for themselves. In the meantime we will issue coloured pencils but it is very time consuming to then have to clean them down. As a guide, a small pack of 10 crayola pencils are currently on sale in Tesco for £1.50.



Teacher Letter

Children will have today been issued with a double-sided letter from teachers. This letter shows a curriculum map of the topics they will be covering this half-term along with some information on PE days and homework routines. ***Please make a note of PE days as children will need to come to school wearing their kit.***

Reading Book

We're keen to pick up our momentum with reading so after completing some initial assessments have now been directing children to select a book from the school library to use in school and at home. In the meantime, children are welcome to read books at home and to bring in one book to read in class also. We did loan a huge number of our reading books out of the school library on those last days before school lockdown in March. We still haven't received many of this back so please have a look in bedrooms over the weekend and return the loaned reading books. Thank you.

Small messages – We can receive notes, so if you have something small you wish to pass on to teachers, just drop a quick letter with your child to pass on and we can hopefully deal with the issue. For bigger concerns please ring/email the school.

Dinner Money – The SchoolGrid system is now up and running and the menu has been programmed in for the remainder of this half term. We have attached a copy for parents to have a look through and please remember that children can alternate between school dinners and pack lunches, the system is very flexible. Dinners can either be ordered at home or in registration. Everyone should now have had the 'log in' link – please let the office know if you haven't been able to log in or have any problems setting up or using the payment function. The other payment system for trips etc, ParentMail, will also have generated a 'log in' for new parents and this will be required in due course for things like EBASC and school trips.

Headlice – We have had a few cases of headlice already, so please be can children be checked and treated where appropriate.

School Uniform – We are also amassing a large amount of lost property even on Day 2! Please can everyone make sure that names are put in uniforms and then we can get items back to children.

Speaking to the children (and teachers), they have told me how much they have enjoyed being back in the classroom. They (children and teachers) have enjoyed a well-earned weekend break, so look forward to you all back on Monday morning.

As always if you have any matters you wish to discuss, please call through to school or drop me an email. If there are smaller issues you wish to share with the teacher, just drop a quick message in their bag.



Mr A Beattie
Head teacher

