



Wednesday 24th June 2020

Dear Parents,

KEEPING IN TOUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR YEARS 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 and 6

Last week, the Government conceded that their aim for all pupils to spend 4 weeks in school before the summer break was not feasible due to social distancing and other safety measures that need to be in place.

We recognise that this is immensely disappointing for our Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 classes, as we know how challenging it has been for our children and families to manage Home Learning in lockdown conditions for the last 3 months. We can imagine that some families are feeling quite disheartened and demotivated as they realise that a return to school will now not be until September 2020.

However, Government guidance **does** give schools some flexibility in reaching out to those pupils in classes who will not be returning this term.

We have reviewed our risk assessment, consulted with the COVID Strategic Governor committee as well as our staff teams. We all want to offer those children an opportunity to re-connect with their school, teachers and classmates, and feel a part of school life once again.

We have come up with a plan which would enable these pupils to come into school for 1 hour / week for a session with their class teacher and peers. For the last Wednesdays in the term, we will split these year groups in half, and meet together for an hour long session in the school grounds. We will set all children - in home and school - a weekly challenge, and pupils will be invited to bring in their project for a 'SHOW AND TELL' session. **The first project to be completed by next Wednesday is to make a Happiness Box. Go to the Welcome page or COVID-19 News tab for a video explaining what this is.**

Wed. 1 st July	Years 3, 4, 6	11 - 12noon Team A (up to 15 pupils)	1 - 2pm Team B (up to 15 pupils)
Wed. 8 th July	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11 - 12noon Team A (up to 15 pupils)	1 - 2pm Team B (up to 15 pupils)
Wed. 15 th July	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11 - 12noon Team A (up to 15 pupils)	1 - 2pm Team B (up to 15 pupils)

- Class teachers / Bubble leaders will allocate each child in years 2/3/4/5/6 with a morning or afternoon slot. These cannot be interchanged as we will ensure siblings come to school at the same time. Bubbles will have a limit of 15 members.
- Children will not be able to attend if they display any of the symptoms of COVID 19. See poster on website under 'COVID-19 News' tab for further information.
- Children can wear school PE kit (white T shirts and blue / back shorts). Pupils must bring sun caps or hats. Water bottles are essential. Sun cream must be applied before the children arrive at school.
- The groups will not be permitted to enter the school building and will gather for their socially distanced sessions in the school garden / field.
- Please ensure your child has been to the toilet before arriving at school, as we cannot allow these new groups to use pupil toilets in the school building. *We have identified 1 toilet for emergencies only!*
- If the weather takes a severe turn and we have rain storms like last week, we will need to cancel the session - but will always Parentmail you as soon as possible.

As some families will not have been in school at all during lockdown, we would direct you to the video on **'Returning to School in Lockdown Summer 2020?'** so that they can familiarise themselves with our adapted drop off and collection arrangements. Families must observe the socially distancing markings at the front of school, and use the correct entrance gates. Class teachers will be at the gates to greet the children. They will then bring your children back through the same gate for handover to you at the end of the session.

NB. Due to staff absence, we can make this offer to Years 3, 4 and 6 only next week. We will be able to monitor the safety of this first session, before hopefully, opening it up to Years 2 and 5 in the following weeks.

NEXT STEPS

- It is your choice. Please let the school know if you would like your Years 3, 4 and 6 pupils to attend a 'Keeping in Touch' session next Wednesday by 12 noon on Friday 26th June. Email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk
*The school will Parentmail confirmation and inform you whether your children are in the morning or afternoon bubbles.***
- Start working on your Happiness Boxes ready to bring in and talk about next Wednesday.***

**Years 2 and 5 can still make Happiness Boxes and will show them to their group the following week.*

Yours sincerely,

R. E. McLoughlin

J. Courtney

