ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 1

www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to all our pupils and families and a very warm welcome to all our new pupils and families.

We are back! Our attendance for the first two days has been an incredible 98% !! However, not a usual start to an Autumn Term – no diary dates as yet, no trips, no class assemblies etc. Please bear with us as we try and reintroduce our usual timetable, gradually, following government and LA guidance. We are all desperate to get back to normality but we must, as a school community, abide by the restrictions.
Many thanks to everyone for trying hard to follow the rules at drop off and pick up times and for your understanding for the position we find ourselves in and the measures the school has put in place.

Moving forward, communications from school will probably come on more days than just a Thursday – our usual newsletter and letter day - as we react to current situations and developments. Our texting and email system via Teachers2Parents is in operation for P1 contacts and the office email has had new parents added.

We welcome Mrs Gardner to the school office as School Secretary, currently having a hand over with Mrs Cooper. Also Mrs Lee, Teaching Support Assistant, who has joined our Foundation class. We also welcome back Mrs Towse who has started her teacher training course with Mrs Croucher in Year 1.

Reminder - Arrival at School- Information for Parents/Carers

Just to remind families that the stated class start times are the time that classroom doors open – please do not arrive early:
Foundation- drop off at 9.10am and pick up at 1.00pm (First 2 weeks. Thereafter - TBD)
Year 1- drop off at 8.50am and pick up at 3.10pm
Year 2 – drop off 9am and pick up at 3.20pm
Year 3 – drop off at 8.50am and pick up at 3.10pm
Year 4 – drop off at 8.50am and pick up at 3.10pm
Year 5 – drop off at 9 am and pick up at 3.20pm
Year 6- drop off at 9.10 am and pick up at 3.30pm

Please walk up the school footpath and down the school drive.

Please do not stop and talk to friends in school or on the drive – please drop off and leave.

Only one adult to come onto school grounds please.

Older siblings not to enter the school grounds.

Parents in Years 4,5 and 6, please stand in the taped off car park area, not between parked cars

Thank you for your cooperation.

Wide Awake Club (WAC) , After School Clubs

As you are aware we are not operating our Wide Awake club or After School Clubs at the moment. Mr Morley is keen to try and help our families, who have relied on our morning club in the past, as soon as possible and Mrs Munday is trying to reintroduce some sports after school clubs for individual year groups as soon as she can.

To kick off with – we would like to judge how may **Year 2 pupils would like to do Multisports Club with Stuart from SportsFever on a Wednesday (from 16th September) 3.20pm to 4.20pm in the school hall or outside – maximum 16 pupils. Contact the school office by phone/email/text if your child would be interested in joining this free club.**

Mr McClellan, Chess Club teacher, has delivered envelopes to school with cash refunds for his students from last term as three of his sessions had to be cancelled. We will forward these on today. We will have our KS2 Chess Club back in school as soon as we can – but it looks like it won't be until next year.

With regards to WAC, we plan to reopen it from Monday 14th September BUT for only 15 pupils daily. The same charges will apply as last year - £2.50 a session. If you require a place DO NOT BOOK ON PARENTPAY, please contact the school office via phone/email/text and a register will be compiled and payment will be requested, via Parentpay, once your spaces are confirmed. Due to the limited numbers, please only book a space with us if you do not have any alternative options at this time. The children will not mix with pupils from other year groups – using the hall/WAC room/field - and there will not be any food provided – so make sure they come in having had breakfast. Please use the side metal gates- car park entrance from 8am, not any earlier. Thank you

Message for our new families – Named Parentpay Activation Letter

Parentpay activation letters are coming home today for any KS1 and KS2 pupils and tomorrow for our Foundation pupils. Please log on and create your accounts – school lunches are ordered via Parentpay, regardless of whether you pay for them or not – see section in this newsletter 'Lunchtimes, cooked meals' Parentpay is also the method we have for you to pay for any contributions, school trips and Wide Awake Club. Any queries let the office know.

A huge thank you to last year's Y6 for their leaving gifts- including a fairy tree house which is on display in our Secret Garden.

We are very fortunate to have had a number of our families help us out recently with donations for which we are very grateful: See below

A huge thank you to the Frampton and Wessels' families for donating and installing a shed in our Secret Garden. This is very much appreciated!

A huge thank you to parent Mr Woodland who has made two fantastic mud kitchen units for Foundation and Year 1.

A huge thank you to the Willis family for the donations of sand for Foundation and Year 1

Thankful Harvest - 19th and 20th September 2020 - a message from The Methodist Chapel

Hello hopefully might you have heard about 'Thankful Harvest' a fun village event to celebrate our community in Stewkley.

At the Chapel this year our normal harvest celebrations will be different. We enjoy decorating the chapel and church at this time of year and inviting everyone in.

As it's unlikely we can do this in the normal way we would like to decorate the outside of the Chapel and Church instead. We would be delighted if any Stewkley residences would join us by decorating the front of your homes too with the theme of Thankful. The school is doing a display along the school garden on High St North. Your display can be as big or as small as you like with maybe floral, produce, scarecrows, or just jam jars of flowers. If you are entering the decorated garden fronts please let us know (Rev. Donna) so we can include you on the walking map or if you'd like to help with one of the communal spaces please get in touch with Rev. Donna.

Also we have a colouring in competition please download the poster from Stewkley village website (www.stewkley.org/thankfulharvest/2.php print off, colour in and display and share on social media.

To enter send a copy of your coloured in poster with your name to rev.donnabk@gmail.com.

Best wishes

Miss Hart & Rev.Donna

#together

Home Learning Emails

We are going to continue using the home learning email addresses for direct contact with your child's teacher which was started during lock down. Please be aware that teachers may not check emails every day so please ensure any urgent messages come to the office. We will send an email out later today from each of the home learning email addresses. Please reply so the teacher knows they are in contact with you. If your child has the same teacher as last year, the home learning address will be different e.g. it was Y1 homelearning@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk it is now Y2homelearning@st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk

Lunchtimes, cooked meals.

Our catering company, Chartwells Group, have asked us to remind parents (and inform new parents) that you can order, via Parentpay, as many or as few meals as you like, so long as they are ordered in advance. You can order week by week or for a full half-term. Orders for ALL pupils need to be placed via Parentpay **by midnight on the Tuesday** for the following week's orders**.** We will continue to encourage the children to eat their lunches without rushing. Those children who are bringing in packed lunches will be encouraged to finish what they bring to eat and we will continue to expect children to bring home any un-eaten food so that parents are aware of what their child is eating. If you are making up a packed lunch, please make sure your child has a healthy lunchbox consisting of a good balanced and varied diet. Meals provided by Chartwells will meet all the Government guidelines for healthy balanced and varied diet.

At morning break time Infants will be provided with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable under the government scheme – **Juniors may bring fruit or vegetables from home**. **No other snack is permitted** at break-time but items like fruit bars or cereal bars are welcome as part of their balanced packed lunch. Please ensure your child's water bottle is replenished daily.

Pupil Premium Free Schools Meals

The school has to check current families in receipt of benefits which entitle a child to Free Schools Meals on a termly basis. If any other families believe they may be entitled to Free School Meals, please see Mrs Gardner. The school receives additional funding, to be spent in the classrooms, for the children entitled to free school meals – whether they take the meals or not. It is therefore important that every parent who believes they may be entitled, has registered this with Mrs Gardner.

Please note – the continuing government initiative for all Foundation and KS 1 children to receive a free meal at lunch time. We still need to identify the families that would have been eligible for free school meals anyway, as they are in receipt of benefits, in order for the school to receive the pupil premium funding. Confusion has arisen as both schemes are called Free School Meals! If in doubt please see Mrs Gardner.

Reminders:

- Water bottles for use in class (sports type, clear and containing water **only**) should be taken home daily for washing and replenishing and returned the next day. Please ensure your child brings in an additional drink if they are having a packed lunch, either a carton, or an additional water bottle – no glass bottles and no cans thank you. (New water bottles available from school £1.40 each or new tops 30p each)

Emergency Contacts

Data Collection checking sheets will be sent home with all pupils over the next couple of weeks. Please check all details, sign the form and return to the school office at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

Message from The Friends' Association (Our PTA)

Look out for a message from them next week – they have done a sterling job over lock down with the second hand uniform shop, the poster competition and the amazing Readathon!

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

KS2 PE Lessons – with immediate effect

KS2 do NOT need to bring PE Kit in to school as normal. Please could pupils wear PE kit **into school** on the following days:

Monday - Year 6
Tuesday - Year 3
Wednesday - Year 4
Thursday- Year 5

This should include normal school PE kit, trainers and tracksuit bottoms/tops as the children will be outside if at all possible. .

KS1 PE Lessons – from week commencing 14th September

Year 1 and 2 do NOT need to bring PE kit in to school as normal. Please could pupils wear PE kit **into school** on the following days:

Year 1 - Wednesdays
Year 2 – Tuesdays

This should include normal school PE kit, trainers and tracksuit bottoms/tops as the children will be outside if at all possible.
(Foundation do not require PE kit until January 2021)

Extra curricular Clubs

Please see message above re potential clubs. As we cannot mix class bubbles, these will be for single classes only where there is a demand. Year groups and activities provided, will depend on the interest of the children and response from parents.

Bikes needed

Year 1 and Foundation would love to have a few more pedal and balance bikes to use at playtimes. If anyone has any they would like to sell, or even donate, to the school please contact me via the office. Thank you.

A request for photographs

Please could parents send in any photographs of their children enjoying any form of activity or sport taken during the lockdown or in the summer holidays. We would like to use these on the sports board so pupils can share their experience with others, as well as highlight the importance of physical activity. Please send any hard copies or email images to the office for my attention. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely
Alison Cooper/Dena Gardner
School Secretary