



Friday 14th February 2020

Dear Parents,

Another term (or half-term in old speak) has come and gone and we are now more than halfway through the school year. We have had wind, we have had rain, but thankfully no snow. If we do have any snowfall it is very unlikely that our school will close; in the eight years I have been headteacher here, the snow has not closed us for a single day; I am fairly certain that is also true for my predecessors. I can only imagine how unpopular that has made me in the past. However, if weather conditions are extreme, I may have to make the decision to join some of the less-robust local schools and either partially or fully close the school.

I will do my best to make this decision early and will update our status on <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk>. The website still has the schools listed separately so I will update the status of both. Please also check the school website. If the weather is very severe, school lunches may be affected so we will include this information on both websites as soon as we are able.

Coronavirus

All Kent schools have had a message from Public Health England on the coronavirus outbreak. Coronavirus is a topic of conversation on the school playground among some of the children. I also imagine that, like me, you have had discussions about it with your curious children at home. We can only continue to reassure the children both at home and at school, and promote good hygiene (more on this below).

The advice we have been given to share with you is at the bottom of this newsletter.

Nuts

Please remember that we are a nut free school; there are children here with severe allergies to nuts. This week a child brought in a bag of nuts as a snack. If seen, these will be confiscated and disposed of.

Rachel Piper

Edward Christopher Piper was born on Monday afternoon. Congratulations to Mrs Piper!

Linda Jarvis

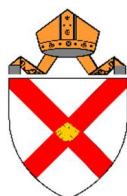
As you may know, Linda is a Teaching Assistant in Year 5. Linda has resigned from the school due to family commitments. She was a real asset to the school; we will miss her and wish her well for the future.

New team members

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that we have recruited three new Teaching Assistants to join our Key Stage 2 team. Lydia Fahey, Martin Fern and Sarah Vorster will all be starting with us after half term.

Leaving engines running

If you drive your children, please don't leave your engine running outside the school. If you are cold, wear layers and a woolly hat. Alternatively walking to school generates more than enough body heat to keep you toasty on even the coldest of school runs!



Forest school update from Mrs Hadley

This term, Forest School have had great fun being involved in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, and the children have loved watching and listening out for the great variety of birds we enjoy on our site. Between us we spotted 5 robins, 3 blackbirds, 1 song thrush, 2 nuthatches, 2 greater spotted woodpeckers, 1 goldcrest, 2 magpies, 2 crows, 1 gull, 3 wrens, 1 heron, all of which we have added to the nationwide count.

Both Forest School sites are extremely muddy (to the delight of the children) due to the mild weather and we sadly lost the Infant site tarp over Robin's Nest to the high winds. However, we are managing with a temporary fix until there is time to put a better one in place and appreciating the increase in light to the area.

We would like to put out a plea for any waterproof trouser hand-me-downs anyone can donate, especially ages 8 – 14, as we have a dwindling supply of intact trousers to fit the amazingly wide range of sizes of children in KS2. Please pass any you can spare to Forest School through the School Office or your class teacher. Many thanks!

Message about Safer Internet Day from Mr Stevens

At school this week, we have celebrated Safer Internet Day, which highlights the importance of keeping safe online. We have enjoyed a whole range of activities: an e-safety assembly about this year's theme 'Our online identity'; making our own avatars; celebrating all the positives about creating an online image, which can be whatever we choose it to be, whilst keeping our personal information safe; and how to communicate positively with others.

As a school we want to continue to focus on online safety and ensure children understand where they can get help and support. We recognise that parenting in this digital world can be really tough - with seemingly limitless technology, apps and ways to communicate. How can we support and help our children as they branch out and experiment in a virtual world that often does not mirror our own upbringings? To help make this task a little less daunting, we are launching a new scheme, National Online Safety, which is designed to teach pupils about online safety in a fun and engaging way.

The website provides an interactive online workshop for all our parents & carers and the course can be taken at your own convenience. It covers information about online dangers and the newest platforms and the online risks to look out for and how to protect your child. We are delighted that 50 families have already signed up to this valuable resource.

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-james-church-of-england-voluntary-aided-primary-school>

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course, please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com.

School website

This is a reminder that the school website URL is <https://st-james.kent.sch.uk> . It does not work when prefixed by **www**, so if you are having difficulty accessing the site, please ensure you are using this address.

Contact letters

On the school website under the "Learning" heading you can access the weekly contact letters. These give you information on what the children will be covering in their learning in the week ahead. They are arranged under year group headings.

Vacancy for a midday meals supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a midday meals supervisor for three days per week. If you are interested, please contact Angie Pierce in the KS1 office.



Class assembly change of date

Kestrel class (Mr Stevens) were due to lead an assembly on 28th February, but have now realised they will be swimming. Rather than Kestrel class leading an assembly from the poolside, Osprey class will lead the assembly on that date.

Dates for the diary

Friday 14 th February	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 24 th February	First Day of Term 4
Thursday 27 th February	Early Years trip to the Museum of Kent Life
Friday 28 th February	Osprey Class Assembly
Monday 2 nd March	Year 1 trip to the Museum of Kent Life
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Nightingale Class Assembly Year 3 trip to Lullingstone
Friday 13 th March	Dormouse Class Assembly Own clothes day (sports wear)
Wednesday 18 th March	Junior disco
Friday 20 th March	Infant disco Badger Class Assembly Own clothes day
Wednesday 25 th March	Rabbit Class Assembly Sharing learning (afternoon)
Thursday 26 th March	Sharing learning (morning)
Friday 27 th March	Junior Easter Egg Bingo



Wednesday 1 st April	Last day of Term 4
Thursday 16 th April	First day of Term 5
Monday 11 th May	Beginning of SATs week
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 1 st June	INSET day
Tuesday 2 nd June	First day of Term 6 for children
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of the school year
Tuesday 1 st September	INSET day
Wednesday 2 nd September	First day back for children

Have a lovely half term break.

John Tutt

February 2020

Coronavirus guidance from Public Health England

What is the coronavirus?

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus has been spreading since it was first reported in December 2019.

Symptoms include fever and respiratory symptoms including coughing and shortness of breath. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.



If you develop these symptoms and you have recently travelled to an area where the coronavirus is being widely reported or believe you may have come in contact with the virus then you should stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of the details linking you to the virus.

What should I do?

If you are feeling unwell and have not been contacted by Public Health England, then there is no need for concern.

You should continue to treat your symptoms as usual for seasonal flu or a common cold. If you feel unwell and do not know what you should do, then call NHS 111.

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take to bugs spreading:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

How do I know if I've been in contact with a case?

Public Health England is in the process of contacting people who have had close contact with the confirmed cases.

Close contacts will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after contact with the confirmed case. This tried and tested method will ensure any risk to them and the wider public is minimised.

Where can I find more information?

- [Information for the public](#)
- [Blog and frequently asked questions](#)
- [Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas.](#)

