



Newsletter - Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear parents,

You may have seen that a school nearby has had to close due to a case of COVID-19. It remains extremely important to follow the guidelines on social distancing and on what to do if a member of your household shows symptoms: a raised temperature, persistent cough or loss/change of taste/smell.

If you or anyone in your household shows symptoms, please consult 111 online and arrange for a test as soon as possible. Please do not come to school while awaiting the results. We would be very grateful if you would inform us if anyone in your household is being tested or is isolating.

September 2020

You will probably have seen in the news that the DfE has released guidance on wider school opening from September.

I have added an additional INSET to the beginning of term and removed the one planned for April. This gives us more time to ensure we have everything in place for the start of term. The first day for pupils will therefore be Thursday 3rd September.

We are currently working through our plans and will soon be discussing them with staff and governors, so we cannot give you details as yet, but we hope to be able to share them with you by the end of next week.

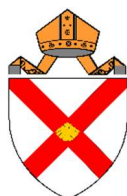
What I can say is that we are planning on the basis of a full return for all pupils for September. We are also planning on staggering starting and finishing times to mitigate overcrowding at drop off and pick up times; although the school day may be shorter than normal, this should only be by a small amount (20 minutes or so). The school will no longer close early on a Friday.

You may also have seen that attendance at school will be compulsory from the beginning of September.

Lastly, please be mindful of the tendency for the advice to change depending on the developing situation over the summer. With this in mind, I will send out a newsletter in the last week of the school holidays. Hopefully this will be a short letter to confirm the arrangements that we will have already shared with you, but if there is a change in the local situation, or the guidance we have been given, we will let you know what we plan to do to accommodate this.

Years 2 to 5 day at school

Please take a look at the table below for how we will organise the children in years 2 to 5 to return to school for a day at the end of term.



The children have been allocated either Monday 20th July or Wednesday 22nd July based on their surnames. We have split the classes to ensure there are no more than 15 children in any one group.

As we are doing now, we are staggering starting and finishing times to avoid overcrowding and asking one parent only to drop off or pick up. Please arrive as close to your start/finish time as possible. If you have children in more than one year group, you can drop them off at the time of the latest group. Children do not have to queue, they can come straight into school at their allotted time. If you have not been into school over the last 4 months, we have a one way entry and exit system. I will be on the gate to help and to welcome the children.

Please send your child to school with a packed lunch, and in school uniform where possible. The children can wear either trainers or school shoes. If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal, the kitchen will be able to provide a packed lunch if you wish.

Please remember to maintain social distancing on the way to and from school. Although it is not compulsory for your child to come to school for this day, we would strongly encourage you to send them in.

Year group	Class	Monday surnames	Wednesday surnames	Start/finish	Entrance/exit
Year 2	Hedgehog	A – Ki	Ku – Z	8:45/2:55	Infant entrance
	Rabbit	A – L	M – Z	8:55/3:05	Infant entrance
	Squirrel	A – P	R – Z	9:05/3:15	Infant entrance
Year 3	Badger	A – He	Hi – Z	8:45/2:55	Year 2 playground
	Deer	A – Har	Haw – Z	8:55/3:05	Year 2 playground
	Fox	A – L	M – Z	9:05/3:15	Year 2 playground
Year 4	Dormouse	A – L	M – Z	8:45/2:55	Main office
	Stoat	A – G	H – Z	8:55/3:05	Main office
	Vole	A – Ho	Hu – Z	9:05/3:15	Main office
Year 5	Chaffinch	A – K	L – Z	8:45/2:55	KS2 playground
	Nightingale	A – J	K – Z	8:55/3:05	KS2 playground
	Swift	A – K	M – Z	9:05/3:15	KS2 playground

Attendance for Years R, 1 and 6

Please could I remind parents of children in years R, 1 and 6 that those who have committed to returning to school are expected to attend each day. If they are absent without a valid reason eg sickness or visiting a secondary school, the register will be marked with an unauthorised absence.

Whole School Art Competition

You should have received information today about an upcoming in school art competition that Mrs Williams is running. We are hoping this will be a fun way to raise spirits and are very much looking forward to seeing what the children produce. The closing date to enter is Monday 13th July - see the flyer sent out earlier today for more information.

National School Sport Week

Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in National School Sport Week last week. We had a phenomenal response from St James' children with over 250 children taking part and submitting their



results across the week. From Monday to Thursday, children took part in 3 different athletics, handball, football and cricket activities.

The results were astonishing - we achieved a **whopping** 285 **1st**, **2nd** or **3rd** places across the events in the different year groups! What incredible talent we have here at our school.

To complete what was a fantastic week, we also had some overall winners! These St James' children achieved the best results across **all** events in their age group - Kitty from Year 6, Seb from Year 3 boys, Isaac from Year 1 boys and Summer from Year 1 girls. Huge congratulations to these 4 children who will receive medals for their achievements.

Mr Hodges

Message from Kent Educational Psychology Service

Due to school closures relating to the coronavirus, for a limited period of time Kent Educational Psychology Service are offering free consultations via video/phone call for 30 minutes, where parents/carers can talk to an educational psychologist. The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to support children's wellbeing and learning during the time of school closures.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss could include:

- Anxiety around the current situation and its impact on your children and family.
- Supporting your children's emotional needs.
- Concerns about family relationships.
- Concerns about friendships, learning, daily structure and sleep routines.
- How you can best look after yourself to support your children.
- Preparing for the transition back to school.

If you would like to make use of this service, please contact:

kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk. When you e-mail, please give:

- your name;
- phone number;
- the time of day that would be most convenient to be called back (i.e. morning, afternoon, early evening);
- your child's education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school;
- a brief description of what you wish to discuss.

They will do their best to respond within two working days but this may be subject to availability.

Kent Educational Psychology Service

Thank you again for your support over this difficult term. Apparently, this weekend is going to be wet and windy (again). I hope you enjoyed those few sunny summer days as much as I did – it looks like we are already well into Autumn. I have added another assembly to the website under the “welcome” and “messages from staff”, and by the time you read this I may well have got it to work properly.

John Tutt
July 2020

