



Newsletter – Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear parents,

It is the first day back for the children tomorrow and I hope they are as excited as we are. The staff have all been very busy getting everything ready for them and we are all agreed that tomorrow is going to be an emotional day.

I understand that some children will be anxious about returning to school and that some parents will be anxious about sending their children in. We are aware of this and the teachers will be focusing on the children's wellbeing at the start of term to reassure and settle them into school routines as quickly as possible.

Since the newsletter I sent last week some parents and teachers have asked some very good questions related to the arrangements for the start of term, so I have answered those below.

While we have planned for a smooth and efficient start to the school year, I would be incredibly grateful if you would bear with us for the first few days as routines become established. If systems do not work we will change them and keep changing them until we get them right.

Please read on for clarifications for the beginning of term.

Drop off and pick up times request

As we are staggering drop off and pick up times to minimise congestion in the school car park, we have said that if you have more than one child you can drop them off at the same time as the latest sibling and collect at the same time as the earliest. Please do not wait in the car park to collect siblings.

Drop off should not present a problem as you will simply drop off all of your children at the latest time. They can enter the school by their usual entry point.

Picking up at the time of the earliest child will be more organisationally problematic to begin with as the children in the different year groups will need to be ready for you to collect at the appropriate time.

If you would like to collect all your children at the same time, please let your class teacher know via their class email (see below) so that we can do our best to have the children ready for you. Once we have established a routine we hope that this will run smoothly.

Please email each teacher the time you need to collect your child. You do not need to email the teacher of the child with the earliest pick up.

All children will be collected from the main school entrance if they are not leaving with their classmates.



If you would like to keep to the timings below for all of your children please leave the site and re-enter it at the appropriate times.

Years	Start time	Home time	Entrance/Exit
Reception	9:00	3:15	Early Years
Year 1	8:45	2:50	Infant entrance
Year 2	8:55	3:05	Year 2 gate
Year 3	8:45	2:55	Year 3 side gate
Year 4	9:00	3:10	KS2 playground
Year 5	8:45	2:55	KS2 playground
Year 6	9:10	3:20	Main entrance

We will continue to use the one-way system that has been successful so far. Parents and children need to enter via the vehicle gate and leave through the infant path and pedestrian gate. Miss Hayward and I will be able to help anyone who needs it.

School Meals

We have had a few queries regarding how the new system for ordering and paying will work. I have re-attached the letter regarding Parentmail +Pay that was sent at the end of the last term. You will need to set up your accounts on Parentmail - please use the following link if you need further help:
www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/.

Your child will need to tell their teacher each morning that they will be having a school packed lunch and the teacher will mark it on the Parentmail register. While we are only having school packed lunches your child will also need to tell their teacher which choice of packed lunch they require each day. School packed lunch menus are also attached.

Allergies/conditions which could be confused with COVID

If your child has a medical condition which means they may be coughing more than their peers (for example hayfever), please let the school office know to avoid them being sent home.

School offices merger

Please remember that there is now just one school office and one school entrance. The phone system will be updated very soon to reflect the changes. The number remains unchanged and you can get through to the office on the usual number. If you need to use the gate buzzer to access the school during the school day, please use the junior button.

Communicating with your class teacher

Please contact your class teacher via email if this is necessary. Please keep your messages as brief as you can; I have asked teachers not to respond to lengthy emails as this is not a productive use of their time. I have also told teachers not to respond to emails after 5pm. If you have a query which needs discussing, the teacher will phone you at a convenient time.

If you have an urgent message (for example a change of person picking up a Year 1 child later that day) please phone the school as teachers will not be reading their emails during the school day.



The class email addresses are listed below:

Mapleclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Cherryclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Oakclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Ashclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Chestnutclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Beechclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Hedgehogclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Rabbitclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Squirrelclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Foxclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Deerclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Badgerclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Voleclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Dormouseclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Stoatclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Swiftclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Chaffinchclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Nightingaleclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Owlclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

Ospreyclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

kestrelclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk

John Tutt

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