

17.08.20

Dear Parents,

I hope you've been able to enjoy some lovely weather this summer break. Thoughts in school are focused on a safe return for all of our pupils based on the Department of Education's intentions made in July. We have been spending a lot of time reflecting on what we were able to achieve with our partial reopening, your responses from the Headteacher survey (can I say a BIG thank you here as there were many responses and a more detailed feedback for you will be sent) and by discussion with other local schools as well as our school Governors and our dedicated School Improvement Advisor.

It is important to remember that the risks associated with the virus have not disappeared but the guidance clearly states the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased. Every school is unique and subsequently there will be differences between the ways schools reopen. However, if we continue to plan our return to school as we have done through the pandemic and ensuring the needs and the safety of the children are of the highest priority then there will be a confidence in reopening.

I will begin to be in more regular contact with you from now and share our 'School Reopening Document' so you can read about the measures we have in place, how we will be ensuring that initially our return will be focused on the children's physical, social and mental health. Many children have now been out of an educational setting for an extended period of time. Getting this right through a nurturing approach will enable children to again feel confident in engaging with high quality teaching and a high quality curriculum.

There has been a lot in the media about 'catch up' and 'a lost generation' but we need to ensure this is done through careful assessment to find children's new starting points, tailoring lessons to children's needs and ensuring the children's learning is in small, sequential and coherent steps so that knowledge and new learning is secure and embedded.

What is most important is that children, parents and staff all work together to ensure returning to school is successful. I know not all arrangements we make will satisfy every family but I would urge you to contact the school and communicate these with us. We have looked at many scenarios and tried to balance what works best for our school community and ensuring the safety needs and requirements of the school community come first.

Prior to the summer break we sent information regarding the drop off and pick up arrangements from September. This is a reminder:

One child at St George's (Year 1-6): Drop off 8.30am Pick Up 3.15pm

More than one sibling at St George's (Year 1-6): Drop off 8.45am Pick Up 3.20pm

Oak Class (Reception) and Pre-school: Drop off 9.00am Pick up 3.00pm

Those of you who have pre-booked the limited spaces in Breakfast Club and After School Club will have details sent to them directly regarding procedures for drop off and pick ups.

This would be a good chance to champion our new school website. One thing we've really wanted to do was update our website so it is more relevant and user friendly and interactive for us all! I'd like to give you all a little homework and take some time out with your children to have a look and familiarize yourself with it! The class pages on the website are there to explore for all but come September will be password protected so be aware! The class pages will become important should there be a local area or school lockdown in the future (fingers crossed there isn't!) as we will be able to use these in an interactive way to provide uninterrupted education for your children. Latest information will be on the pop up on the homepage so make sure you check it out. Go to www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk

Should the necessity arise we would use the zoom platform for live interaction with class teachers so you will need to ensure you have a zoom account (it is free) and we will be able to invite you through the email you have provided to school. It is vital that this information is kept up to date and this would include contact numbers too.

To minimise risk in school we would ask you NOT to send your child to school with too many things. It is important we limit resources brought into school. I would ask you to provide:

- * Small, simple back pack
- * Named sports capped water bottle
- * lunch box (though we are hoping that we will be able to provide a hot dinner service through Caterlink – watch this space!)
- * Reading book (including reading record)

Children will be provided with their own stationary and individual pencil cases in school so you WILL NOT need to bring these to school.

Each class will be dedicated a PE day through the week so they need to wear their PE kit into school for that day. PE kit is a house coloured t-shirt (or plain white), navy shorts with trainers or plimsols. If it is chillier, then they will need to wear plain black or blue track suit bottoms with their school jumper or cardigan.

Other than that we will be returning to school in full school uniform. It is important that children follow the uniform policy so they can make connections back into familiar routines. Please ensure shoes are sensible as where possible the children will make the most of the grounds we are lucky enough to have for their learning.

I'm aware this is a lot of information at once but I will be in touch again, and update you on any further information. Stay safe and well.

Mrs E Rye

Headteacher