



Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance



Seeking life in all its fullness

The Purple Page

FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020

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UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

We are now at the end of the second week of the summer term, for most of our children, that continues to mean home learning and a very different type of school.

I am very conscious that all families will be experiencing pressures and challenges, many similar, and some very unique. Please know that school is here for you. If you are worried or struggling with anything, please do get in touch; sometimes even a conversation can help. You can contact us via the school telephone number and email above or send a Dojo message. A member of our Senior Leadership Team will then give you a call and discuss any concerns with you.

HOME LEARNING

Learning packs for weeks 7 and 8 have now been uploaded to class pages on the website. Learning materials are organized into fortnightly sections to provide more flexibility for parents.

These can also be collected from the school office - please contact the office to let us know so that we adhere to social distancing guidance.

I am very conscious of the challenges of home learning - the learning materials are there to support you at home and not to add any pressures. Please be kind to yourself. If you feel anxious about the set schoolwork, please get in touch, and someone at school will give you a call to discuss any worries.

SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

One of the most important things is looking after yours and your children's wellbeing and mental health during these strange and challenging times. I have added several resources and links to our school website to support families. Please follow the links on the home page: Keeping us safe > wellbeing.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The national voucher scheme: The system remains under a great deal of pressure and inundated with thousands of daily emails from schools across the country. We will contact parents eligible for benefits-related free school meals as soon as we can access the vouchers.

In the meantime, we are in the fortunate position of still being able to provide weekly food parcels to eligible families. If you think you may be entitled to receiving free school meal support and would like a food parcel, please contact us.

Parents can still apply for benefits-related free school meals. If you think you could be entitled or if your circumstances have changed, contact Sefton council on the following numbers: 0151 934 3263 or 0151 934 3246

WHEN WILL SCHOOLS REOPEN?

Understandably, the constant speculation from the media about when schools will reopen causes additional worries for families.

The most current government position is that schools will only reopen when the scientific advice indicates it is safe to do so and will consult closely with the education sector on their approach (Department for Education 28 April 2020).

Please know that I continue to work very closely with our local schools, Sefton LA and Liverpool Diocese, throughout this situation. Although we do not yet know when and how schools will reopen, please be assured that I will keep parents and carers fully informed and updated of any changes.

School remains closed at the moment and is only open on an emergency basis for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. As you know, our priority is to secure the childcare where a parent is employed in an essential job, and their specific work is critical to the country's COVID-19 response, and there is no alternative childcare option available.

We have contacted families who have indicated that they require a place. If you feel that you are eligible and require emergency care, please email or call school. We need to know by Wednesday of each week as this will impact upon the arrangements that we need to put in place and allow us to ensure the safety of staff and children.

TRANSITION

Year 6

We have long-established, strong partnerships with our secondary schools, and will be working closely with them to support the transition for our Year 6 children. All our secondary schools have been in touch. Miss Skates and Mrs. Francis (SENDCo) are working together to ensure all the necessary information is available to inform the transition process and will be communicating closely with our secondary colleagues.

NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN

We have now been in touch with most families of our new reception children to say hello and welcome, and to offer reassurances about our commitment to our new and youngest members of our St. John's family during these extenuating circumstances. Although our transition arrangements will look different this year, I want to reassure parents that they remain a priority for us. We will keep parents of our new reception children, fully informed of the transition arrangements as soon as we are able.

On behalf of all our staff and governors, you are always close to our hearts and in our prayers. We miss you all and look forward to filling our vibrant, happy school with each one of our wonderful children. Remember, although school is closed, we are still here for you. Thank you for your continuing support and all the lovely wishes and comments received over the last few weeks. Take care, and stay safe.

