

# **St Paul's C of E Junior School**



Dear all,

Excuse the length of this week's Newsletter but there is a considerable amount of information to share.

To ensure the safety of the key worker children who have been in school since 20th March, there have been just three or four staff on site, including Mr Millen. When the Year 6 pupils return on Monday, things will change dramatically in that every available teacher and learning mentor from across the school will be involved in provision for the 13 groups that will be spread throughout the building.

As we prepared for the safe return of Year 6 pupils, it quickly became clear that any hopes we might have had of safely bringing children from other year groups back before the end of term would not work. We do not have sufficient spaces or adults to set up any additional small groups of pupils and as this is the case for the majority of other primary schools across the country, this is presumably why the government has now reversed its decision. At the time of writing, there has been no indication as to what it proposes the arrangements will be for September, however, we will continue planning whilst we await the scientific evidence to confirm it is safe for schools to open more widely.

Every parent and member of staff is anxious and worried about the impact that the pandemic has on the wellbeing and academic progress of children. Rest assured, we will move heaven and earth to get your child back on track as soon as possible after it is safe for them to return to school. To approach the end of the school year without our pupils experiencing all of the normal summer term events, trips, mini olympics, Sports Day, Leavers' Celebrations and Big Swap Week is heart-breaking, but there are some things that will carry on regardless.

Under normal circumstances, transition to Year 4, 5 and 6 involves the children being mixed into new classes and then spending time with their new teachers in July. This year, the children in Year 3, 4 and 5 classes will not be mixed but stay in their existing register groups as they move to the next year group.

The teachers in the Years 4, 5 and 6 teams will remain the same as this year. The only change will be in Year 3 but this will not impact on any of our existing pupils or the new Year 2 children who have yet to join us. Again, to ensure stability, our new recruits will remain in the same classes as they were in Year 2.

The teachers have begun to write end of year reports for each pupil which will be an abridged version of our normal report, reflecting the fact that the children did not complete this academic year because lockdown occurred at a point when there was over a term's worth of curriculum left to cover. The assessment information in the reports will cover the period 4th September 2019 to 20th March 2020.

Each team will put together transition information for the children who will be moving into their year group. This will include photos and a short, child friendly biography about each teacher, details of the topics that will be taught in the Autumn, a copy of each class timetable and other housekeeping information such as PE days etc. Please look out for today's parent mail asking you to respond with your child's main worry about moving up so that we can try to address as many of these as possible in the information. The Transition information will be sent out with reports in July.

The summer term Parents' Consultations will be conducted via telephone and we will send out more information regarding booking an appointment before the end of June.

Every available teacher will be involved in teaching Year 6 each week between now and the end of the summer term. However, they will continue to prepare and publish a weekly schedule for Year 3, 4, 5 and for those Year 6 pupils who will not be returning. They will also continue to communicate with the children via the learning platform but as they will now be back on site, they will be able to access our data management system, including the personal details of pupils and phone numbers. Please expect a catch-up call from your child's class teacher over the next couple of weeks as they are looking forward to having the chance to speak to the children in person. These will be fitted in around teaching Year 6 and with only two phone lines in school, it may take a little while to get through to everyone. For those teachers for whom it is still unsafe to return to school, a call will be made on their behalf.

The Year 6 teachers will of course phone pupils who are not returning and at some point over the next two weeks, check in with the Y6 pupils in school who would normally be in their class. This will of course take place outside and with social distancing in place to avoid increasing the risk of an additional adult entering a pupil group.

Throughout lockdown, the teachers led by our subject leaders have continued with curriculum development work, redesigning the content of some of our existing topics and constructing new planning for new units of work we plan to introduce in the next academic year.

Next week, Year 6 parents will be sent information about the sizes for their child's Leavers' T-shirt. Please do respond as quickly as possible so that the order can be submitted and the children receive their t-shirt prior to the end of term. We will do a doorstep delivery for any Y6 pupil who will not be returning to school.

For parents wishing to purchase school uniform for September, our supplier is currently unable to transfer us to their online booking and delivery service, so we are in the process of working out how we can make buying uniform both safe and convenient for existing and new parents. We will include details about arrangements in the next Newsletter.

We know from working with professional colleagues that there is variable practice in terms of the use of online/remote learning by schools and some are further down the route than others. We also know from discussions with the local authority, that the use of live lessons is in its infancy and many schools have yet to reach the stage where they are ready to be able to make significant use of online learning. At the time of lockdown, we had only recently moved to Office 365 and were yet to embed the use of this system across the school, but our direction of travel is to make greater use of online opportunities through the use of Microsoft Teams in a measured way and following further training for staff. The Wokingham ICT in Schools Team will be delivering training for staff over the next few weeks and we are hoping to be able run a limited trial before the end of term, ready to help us prepare for September in case not every pupil is able to return to school.

As all of our offices make social distancing impossible, our admin and finance team will continue to work remotely for now. If you need to contact school, please email [admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk) and we will aim to respond by the end of the next working day. In the event of an emergency, please call on 0118 978 5219.

Thank you for reading such a lengthy introduction. I am sure that there will be others in the coming weeks as we keep you abreast of the situation and plans for moving forward. Several parents have been in touch with us as to what is in place for our Year 6 pupils returning. If you would like to see what provision will be like for our Year 6 returners, we made a short film to help prepare them for what to expect. It can be accessed here [https://www.stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk/website/year\\_6/29883](https://www.stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk/website/year_6/29883)

Stay safe and have a good weekend.  
Mrs Taylor – Headteacher

## Support

For families struggling to pay for food – we can definitely help. Please get in touch by ringing 0118 978 5219 or send a message to [admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk).

## Message from School Nursing Service

Berkshire Healthcare is launching a new School Nursing advice and support line for children, young people and their families, to offer health advice and referral into the service for on-going support if needed. The line will be available from 9am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday. You can access this service by dialing **0118 9312111** and selecting '**Option 4**' to speak to a School Nurse from our team.

School Nursing Service

## Summer Reading Challenge – Wokingham Library



The Summer Reading Challenge from the Reading Agency takes place every year during the summer holidays. This year the challenge is online with Silly Squad! It's all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh! Parents and guardians can find out more on the [Summer Reading Challenge website](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk).

The Silly Squad is a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books. This year, our challenge features extra special characters designed by the award-winning author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson, who you'll know from amazing reads like Amelia Fang and Evil Emperor Penguin!

### Set a personal reading challenge

You can join the Silly Squad on a new adventure by setting your own personal reading challenge to complete this summer. The online platform will help you keep track of your books, reviews and the rewards you unlock along the way. As always, The Summer Reading Challenge website has lots of brilliant book suggestions to get you started, and tips on how you can keep reading even while schools and libraries are closed. There is also have heaps of super silly activities, quizzes, videos, games and more to keep you entertained at home!

### Sign up

You can sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge on the national website, this year, instead of registering at your local library, you should register online here [Join the Summer Reading Challenge](https://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk). Further information can be found here <https://wp.me/p5mHbU-57c>

Wokingham Library

## First News Online Edition

We subscribe to *First News*, the UK's national newspaper for young people. During lockdown this publication will be available online. It is full of interesting articles containing age appropriate information and a great way to introduce some non-fiction reading material into your child's diet. The latest edition can be found [here](#).

