



All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

Nurturing, Resilience and Achievement for all!

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher, BMus(Hons), PGCE, ARCO, NPQSL, MCCT

Monday, 22 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and safe. I hope you also had a good weekend, perhaps celebrating Father's Day – in a socially distant way – but maybe you were able to hold a garden visit and see relatives too. My own parents live too far away to make this possible, but our family Zoom was suitably celebratory!

As the country begins to 'come alive' and the pressures on all of us to begin doing more increase, it can create additional stress and difficulty. The national discourse on children 'missing out' is very strong and rooted in a well-founded concern for our children's education and emotional wellbeing. However, in amongst all of the worry and stress, do remember that there are many success stories too – children who have learned new skills in gardening, cooking, cycling, making, DIY and (dare I say) cleaning!

In an over-crowded National Curriculum these things can often get lost in school, so the opportunity for them over the last few months and perhaps the next few weeks too should not be missed or taken lightly.

If you are a parent trying to work from home, I do not underestimate the enormity of your task, but please don't feel guilty if you can only spend a short time helping your children with their work; just try to make that quality time and make it count by making it fun – allow them to achieve something to be proud of. When you are trying to do your own work and are too busy for them, try to find activities to keep them occupied independently (BBC Bitesize or National Oak Academy have many options, alongside some of the other websites we've listed on our Home Learning section of our website: http://www.allsaints.herts.sch.uk/website/home_learning/462814

The best thing we can all do as parents is to focus on the emotional wellbeing of our children at home. Our school will ensure your children catch up on missed learning when they return to us, but we cannot teach them if they are struggling with their emotional wellbeing; so please work to keep your relationships as happy and as caring as you can in these stressful times (easier said than done, I know, and I don't always get it right either!).

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2025/coronavirus-anxiety-toolkit.pdf>

Wider Opening

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey. We had 106 responses (some saying no, lots saying yes!), adding to the 50 or so children we already have in school. The total number of requests/need for places is now at 140, representing 65% of the school. Having considered all the requests, availability of staff and space available, we now have a very finely balanced plan to welcome all year groups in a phased way in the coming weeks, and on a part time basis. I will be writing to parents of children we've allocated places to this week, if I haven't already – please do not just turn up at school!

The plan is very delicately balanced, and we are now full in all year groups we can open to – this does include Critical Worker places, though please contact us if you need a place under this scheme and we will do our best to find a place if at all possible. If there is a large influx of Critical Worker requests, we will have to close to children we've opened to who are not Critical Worker children.

If we do this, it will no doubt cause these children and parents some distress, and we will only do this when we absolutely must. To ensure the need is vital and unavoidable, any request for Critical Worker places not already taken up or requested as of today, must be supported by written letter from an employer, and both parents must be Critical Workers with no other adults in the household able to look after the children.

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 @AllSaintsPriSch



Google Meet

We are very excited to launch our weekly catch-up sessions through Google Meet. Ms Brooks will be sharing the weekly timetable. We do hope you will be able to join us – it's a learning curve so please bear with us as we become familiar with this technology! When it's your child's class, the Video Icon will appear on their Google Classroom banner, and we will publish the link in the stream. Remember to mute on entry, and have an adult nearby.

Penguins (Y2) Jumanji

The Y2 Critical Worker children in school have been making some art as part of their work on the Jumanji story. We hope you've enjoyed exploring the story and making/playing games!



Falcons

The Jumanji theme continued, with jungle artwork, in Falcons (Y6/5) in school:



Summer Reading: The Silly Squad!

Now more than ever, it is important to keep children reading over the summer. This year, although libraries are closed, we are still encouraging all children to join in with the Reading Agency's virtual challenge. It launched this month and will continue through to September. Visit the website for more information:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



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Falcons took the sunnier weather last week to enjoy some outdoor reading – listening to Miss King read from their group reader this week.



Summer Catch-up

Last week, the Government announced their plans to support schools in reducing the impact of school closure for their pupils, particularly the most vulnerable. We are still learning the details of this scheme, and how it might apply to us at All Saints, but we have also begun to construct our own 'recovery curriculum' plans – the way in which we will adapt our existing curriculum to ensure it meets the children where they are when we return more fully.

September Plans

Again, the Government announced it is 'their intention' to open schools to all pupils in September with classes back up to 30. We are very clear, that if this was to happen we will be unable to maintain social distancing. It may be that social distancing is a distant memory by then. However, until the Government release more information about their plans, we can't say anything further about what school will look like in September at All Saints.

Transition to New Year Groups

Y6: We know that our local Secondary Schools have started their transition arrangements – if you haven't heard from them yet, do get in touch directly with the school to ask what they are doing.

New Nursery/Reception: We are holding an online meeting for our new parents in the coming weeks. Please look out for an email with the links! This meeting is for parents only and will be recorded for those who can't attend in person. Later in the term, we will publish a video tour and welcome for children to watch with their parents.

Reception: 4pm Wednesday 24th June

Nursery: 3pm Tuesday 30th June

Other year groups: We plan to arrange a Google Meet with their new teacher and class staff in the week we would've normally had 'Move Up Morning' (w/c 6th July). We will share the details nearer the time. We're also working on activities children can do over the summer to bring in with them when we return in September. We'll share the details as part of the transition Google Meet session.

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Black Lives Matter – a parent guide

As a country we continue to grapple with issues linked to slavery, racism, and history. It may be you have already had these conversations at home, or that you have struggled to find the words. This week a colleague sent me a very clear guide for parents to use to support conversations about Black Lives Matter which might be useful to help you with this at home. I've attached it with this newsletter, and it is available on our website – Home Learning page.

Take care, keep safe. Wash your hands!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Asher

Headteacher

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