



Primary and EYFS Parents News letter

19th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's news letter. It is a few weeks since I have written to you all, but with the class teachers and Mr. John sending out regular correspondence, I did not want to overwhelm you with extra letters and emails. But, as we have now reopened for children and are approaching the end of term it is appropriate that I let you know what has been happening this week, and what will be happening next week.

This week

We have had a very good return to school this week with most of the children rejoining for the last couple of weeks of term. The children have responded fantastically to the procedures we have in place with mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing being very obvious. The children have very much enjoyed seeing each other and returning to a more usual style of learning. Having said that a number of learning tools that proved effective during online learning have been incorporated into the day to day lessons, providing alternative teaching and learning strategies.

In Primary School we are reducing the amount of travelling the children do with the specialist teachers coming to the children rather than children going to specialist classrooms, with the exception of PE. This is working well at the moment.

We held Mile Post assemblies yesterday, which meant we were able to come together in small groups in Pavilion 1 to share in the successes of the week and the results of some of the competitions held before and during online learning.

Today you should receive your child's end of year report for this academic year.

Next week

There are two very important things happening next week.

Firstly, we will be providing the opportunity for online Parent Consultation evenings on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June, starting at 15:15 and finishing at 17:15. These meetings will be held via Zoom as was the case in Term 2. The teachers will share a sign-up sheet on Monday. If you really cannot make one of these times and do wish to talk with your child's teacher, please email them directly to arrange a more convenient time.

Secondly, we will be holding small end of year Awards Ceremonies for the children. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents to attend, but we will be recording them to share with you shortly after. Early Years and Years 1 and 2 will have their ceremonies at 13:00 and 14:00 respectively on Wednesday afternoon and Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 at 13:00 and 14:00 respectively on Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child wears their school blazer on the appropriate day for all children in Years 1-6.

We will also be looking to have mini class parties on Friday 26 June. Your class teachers will be sending details, but we will not be able to share food etc, so please attend to the teachers' instructions closely.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you for the support you have given to your children and the teaching staff during our period of online learning. I think our staff have responded superbly and provided your children with one of the finest models of online learning possible at the time within the constraints. I think the children have learnt admirably, progressed their learning in many traditional and many new ways and will actually come out of this experience stronger, more resilient, more independent and more adept at learning in different ways. I think too that as parents you have been magnificent in learning new experiences and supporting your children through challenging times too. As we approach the end of term, I hope we can metaphorically come together, as much as we are able, to celebrate in the community of St. Stephen's.

As always, I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing the children and yourselves on Monday.

As always, please feel free to see me or contact me about any issues concerning your child's education and experiences here at St. Stephen's.

Kind regards,
Mr. Rob Bendall
Head of Primary.
(robert.b@sis.edu)