

# St George's C of E School

## Head's Newsletter

June 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

### **Current Situation**

From 8<sup>th</sup> June we have started to welcome back children from year 6 as part of our wider re-opening of school. Not all parents have decided to send their children back to school given concerns about infection rates. This is entirely a parents' decision and the Government has stated that no fines will be issued given the unprecedented nature of this pandemic. The school day has been shortened due to children not having a lunch hour and they are having to adapt to very strict regimes related to hand washing and social distancing.

From 15<sup>th</sup> June we will be welcoming back year 1 children. Parents in that year group have been written to and have had a telephone discussion with Ms MacAlpine to talk over any concerns.

Whilst we understand the uncertainties with some parents being undecided, we have had to ask parents to make a definite decision as once the bubbles of children and staff are established it would be very hard to introduce a new child into that bubble safely after a number of weeks and we do not have the staffing capacity to open another 'bubble'.

Home learning across all classes and year groups will be updated regularly and your child can continue to access this.

Protective measures are in place, however, the situation is an ever changing one and we are having to constantly review our staffing levels. The plan at the moment is to widen the opening to Reception class from 6<sup>th</sup> July, however, the final decision will be taken nearer the end of June and depend on sufficient staff in place to ensure that we can minimize risk for pupils, staff and parents.

### **September 2020**

The restrictions related to the pandemic will likely still be in place in September and we will be reviewing Government guidelines and planning how the whole school can be opened up to all classes next academic year. We will keep you informed of all developments as soon as we are in a position to know how we will operate in September.

### **Headteacher**

As you are aware I will be retiring in August. Due to the lockdown, the recruitment process for my replacement has had to be halted. The Governors have, therefore, asked Ms MacAlpine to become the Interim Headteacher as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Due to the difficult times that all schools will face in the coming months, the Governors have asked me to act in a Consultancy role from September until the substantive Headteacher is appointed. I have every confidence in

*"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think" Albert Einstein*

Ms MacAlpine to do a tremendous job and I will be only too happy to support her and the school in any way that I can.

### **New Classes**

You and your children will obviously be keen to know which class your child will be in next year and a separate letter will be sent out to you letting you know the details of your new class this week.

### **Important Dates**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – INSET DAY (moved from 1<sup>st</sup> June)**

**Last official day of school year will now be Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.**

**September start back days will be announced later in this term once guidance has been issued.**