



Stanley St Andrew's

Church of England Primary School

Welcome back to the start of an interesting year!

COVID Awareness

Please think very carefully about what you do outside of your family bubbles as this could have a big impact on us as a school. Already we have children talking about attending parties with children from other schools and having sleepovers. Such behaviour puts us all at risk.

If staff become ill and we are unable to cover classes internally we will have no option but to close classes which would have a big impact on parents as well as our and students' learning. When deciding how to spend time, please keep this in mind as I cannot run school without my staff. We also have staff members who are living with or caring for vulnerable family members and need to keep themselves safe.

If your child has a temperature of 38 degrees or above, a cough or a loss of taste/smell, these are all reasons to arrange a test and to keep them off school until the results are back.

Access to testing is starting to improve and these are now available more locally, with the results coming back within a few days. So far, we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID amongst our pupils, although a number of parents have had positive test results.

With this in mind it would make sense for parents to think about social distancing when collecting rather than standing together. Having one parent/carer to collect children reduces the number of adults standing together and once your child/children have been dismissed, parents should leave quickly rather than stand around talking. Also, when waiting outside school, please remember that our neighbours do need regular access to their drives, so try not to block their way. We have noticed that neighbours are having to sound their horns to get parents to move out of their way.

I am working really hard to get children out on time and, whenever possible, with their sibling. If you are a parent from Robin or Puffin class, please stand by the long wall so that we can easily see you. If you are collecting junior children, please stand at the top of the drive where we can send children up to you. Children who are walking alone will be sent out at the correct time in order for them to begin their journey home. Thank you to those village parents who walk to collect their children, this is really helpful in terms of parking and is also reassuring for the village children who maybe walking alone.

As well as Covid, there are all the usual sickness bugs and other viruses around. If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, they must stay away from school for **48 hours** from their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Please always inform the school if you are keeping your child at home for any reason.

With Erewash being moved up to the Higher Tier 2 on Saturday, households should not mix outside of school. Please be mindful of this when arranging to drop off and collect children from school.

Colder Weather

With the season changing, children need to have warm waterproof coats and warm hats, ready for all weather. We aim to get children outside all year round for learning and playing. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled.

To comply with Covid rules we are having to keep doors and windows open to ensure adequate ventilation in classes. As a result, it is much cooler than normal in school. If your child is feeling cold in school, please let us know. We are trying to balance safety and warmth. They may need to wear extra layers throughout the winter season.

Parents Evening

The restrictions on school means we will not be holding parents evening meetings this term. Instead, we will be sending out a mini report after half term to inform you of your child's targets, how your child has settled into school and what you can do to support your child's learning journey. This will form the first part of your annual report which is usually given at the end of the year. This is the safest method of communicating with you and the best use of time, and will ensure that you have the necessary steps to help move your child forward in the following term.

EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage – Reception

A huge welcome to our school for our new starters and their families. All children have settled in really well and have made a great start to the year. We would like to share with you our classroom and all the beautiful work your children have been doing over this half term.



We send most communications via the Parent Hub app. Please check this regularly. If you are having any problems with it, let us know.



ParentPay is continuing to work really well for us and we would like all parents to use this as their payment method wherever possible. If you do have any issues with this, please let the office know.

School Website

Please keep up to date with all the latest information on the school website

www.st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

International Link

Dum Dum is a school in Kolkata, India. We have been working with them as a link school for the last 5 years.

I have had the privilege to go out and visit the school and build relationships with the staff and children there and for the last couple of years Mrs Davies has been able to visit and strengthen this link. For obvious reasons this year, we will not be able to do our annual visit. However, we have maintained very close contact with the school during the lockdown period and updates and images that we have received from school staff there are on our website.

The effects of COVID have been massive on us as a school community in Stanley but just imagine what impact it has had on our link school in Kolkata. The children have not been able to go to school, so have not had their lunchtime meal and some have been wandering the streets to find food. Many live in shacks where no one speaks English and have missed over 9 months of education. There is no online learning for them and there has been no interaction with any adult from school. I cannot imagine what that must be like for the children or the staff worrying about their students' welfare.

I know that when I spoke during lockdown to Ranu, the class teacher, they were scared and in the dark about what was going on. They were also experiencing a cyclone; a situation where we just cannot imagine what it must be like.

As a school this year we want to send a small amount of money to help repair the damage to the school caused by the cyclone and hopefully provide lunchtime meals for the children. Our aim is to raise **£250**. This will not only help Dum Dum but give our children a sense of pride by helping the children in their link school. It will also give us all an opportunity to think about how fortunate we really are to be in our safe space.

During lockdown Mrs Davies set up a just giving page to help support this wonderful appeal and for our Christmas jumper day this year, all money raised will go towards this appeal. Let's work to smash that target.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stanleydumdum33>

School Uniform Orders

There is a slight delay in the arrival of the latest uniform order due to an issue with the supply of cardigans. This is due to Covid. We are awaiting an update as to when the rest of the order may arrive and we will let you know via ParentHub as soon as we can.

After School - Happy Hour Club

With many parents working from home, our after school club has been quieter than usual so we are introducing a happy hour activities club to boost the numbers. A leaflet will be sent out letting you know what activities are on offer. Please book your child in via email or call the school office.

Reading

Please continue to listen to your children read as often as possible as it helps to promote their understanding of the world. They can read anything out loud to you... even this newsletter!



Audio books can also introduce new stories and get children enthusiastic about fiction.

Derbyshire libraries are running an eBook borrowing service too.

More information here
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/ebooks/ebook-set-up/ebook-set-up.aspx>



Social Media and Tik Tok accounts

We **STILL** have a number of children that have accounts on social media. They should NOT. They are not old enough.

It is really disappointing to know that after all the time and money that has been invested into teaching our children about keeping themselves safe online that we continue to have parents encouraging children to share information about themselves.

Having viewed some of the videos that children have posted, it concerns me that parents think this is acceptable.

Please can I ask that you check what your child is doing online and ensure that the language, music and activities are age appropriate. All apps have an age restriction for a reason and children should not be allowed to set accounts up by falsifying their date of birth.

We continue to try to educate our children about sharing their personal data but need parents to take some responsibility and support the school stance.

Children need to be clear that social media is not a toy and anything posted is there for everyone to see, forever. What is posted on social media can be deemed as bullying if it is directed at someone and can be investigated by the police. We will continue to report accounts that we know have been set up and I will ensure that parents are informed of accounts that need to be closed down.

As we come up to half term please also check that your child is not watching films that are inappropriate for their age. Staff are having to spend time supporting children in school who have been frightened by descriptions of horror movies being shared by other children who have been watching these at home.

Please help us to keep your children safe!

Religious Education

Well done Golden Eagles who have worked really hard with Mrs Davies to write our new intent for the RE curriculum. The children have come up with the following statement:

RE - Intent:

The schools aim for RE is to engage pupils to join in conversations, about 'BIG' questions around religions and views about the world, so pupils can gain understanding to respect and appreciate different people's opinions and create their own answers to improve their responses as their knowledge grows through their school life.

I think this is an amazing statement which reflects that our children have a really good understanding of how RE can impact upon their lives and the lives of each other. We look forward to seeing some of the 'big' questions that the children engage in and I am sure many adults will be challenged by this.

NSPCC

For more information on the NSPCC and how to keep your child safe online please have a look at the following link.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

School Games Mark

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the School Games Badge for autumn and the Virtual Schools Games Badge for keeping PE a priority throughout the year.



Christmas

This year all of our Christmas celebrations will be in school.

Staff are currently planning events for our **Christmas WOW Week** which will be magical this year as our children deserve a very special treat.

Despite not having a Christmas fair, panto and plays, we will ensure that every child has an experience that they will fully engage in and have fun. So get ready for our reindeer races (antlers are essential), a Christmas jumper is a must, and a magical mystery Christmas world will arrive here at school.

On that note we know that some parents/companies like to buy gifts and we will be setting up an Amazon wishlist for any parent or company that wants to buy a little something for school which we can share and use in our classrooms. Once we have our COVID Christmas plan in place next term, we will share our ideas with you.

School Dinners:

Due to the pandemic, catering had to make some adjustments to the menu and way they serve our food. They introduced their 'Hot to Go' menu which was designed to be a more portable version of their school menu. This meant that we were not getting curry, bolognese, gravy or custard type items. The menu was well received by the children although we did get comments that it was a bit dry.

The 'Hot to Go' menu was served in take away style containers with disposable cutlery and bags to limit transmission between schools. This caused a huge amount of packaging waste and goes against everything we are teaching about plastic waste and reducing our impact on the environment. We made the decision to change to school trays to see if that would help. These were well received by the children and still enabled food to be served efficiently and so after half term we have asked to return to the full Derbyshire menu.

The school dinner menu for the Autumn and Winter terms has been uploaded to the school website. This new menu will take effect when we return after the half term break. To see this menu, please follow this link to the school website: [bit.ly/3nMh6kT](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx)

As always, if you have feedback about school dinners, please let us know so that we can talk to catering.

The Covid 19 pandemic has seen some families personal circumstances change dramatically. Many have lost income and some families may now be eligible for Free School Meals, but are unsure if they are entitled or how to apply. If you would like to find out whether you are now entitled to Free School Meals, please get in touch with the school office and we can run an eligibility check for you, or you can visit the Derbyshire County Council website: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>



Don't forget that this year we are again supporting the 'Love in a Box' Christmas Shoebox Appeal which is a nationwide appeal to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families in Romania.

Please be a part of this ongoing story that is continuing to impact and change lives by donating a shoebox to this year's appeal!

For more information on how to do this, please see the information on our school website. If you would like a printed copy of the information, please contact school and we will gladly provide this for you.

We will be asking for shoeboxes to be bought into school early w/c 2nd November and will confirm the exact date soon. Please do not bring shoeboxes into school until we advise on the collection date as we do not have the storage room for these.

Crossing Patrol

Kay continues as our crossing patrol at the top of the drive. With parents not being able to park at the pub, this is the safest place for her to stand. It is really important that if parents are crossing the road, they cross with Kay. Not only does this set a good example to our children, but also shows that the crossing patrol is a required service. DCC are trying to reduce crossing patrols across the county so if we don't use it we may lose it.

Eco Award!

An amazing well done is due to all of our children who worked so hard over lockdown - we have been awarded the bronze Eco award which is great news for the whole school community.

We are now working towards the Silver award and our Year 6 children have the very important job of being our ECO committee and have used the Environmental review we completed during lockdown to provide actions for each class to improve our school. We are also very lucky to have Nicky Wood (school governor) on our ECO committee as well.

- Robins are looking at how to conserve water.
- Puffin are looking at how to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Kingfisher are looking at how to conserve energy.
- Golden Eagles are looking at comparing energy efficiency.

Over the summer there has been a lot of work completed in the Eco garden. A huge thank you to Patrick Bosworth for dredging the pond to allow for new growth and life. And to Darren Walters for maintaining the Eco garden and building a lovely den for the children to use.

Another huge thank you goes to Russell Brammer for repairing all of our picnic benches to make them safe to use and Tom Richards and team for cutting back all the overhanging trees and bushes to make the playground safer.

Thank you All!



Well done Stanley St. Andrew's!



Photo Orders

If you have not yet returned your photo order form and would like to place an order, please let us have these back by the end of the school day on Thursday 22nd October.

INSET DAYS

This school year we have inset days on:

Fri 23 Oct
Mon 22 Feb
Mon 19 April
Mon 7 June

Christmas Cards

We will be sending Christmas card design sheets home with children at half term and would like all of our children to have a go at designing their own Christmas Card. Parents will then be able to purchase printed cards with their child's design in order to help raise much needed funds for our school.