

Stanley St Andrew's

Church of England Primary School



2020 is proving to be a unique and challenging year for all of us. However you are coping, you are doing a great job!

We are all in this together and need to continue to work as a team to ensure that we are looking after each other. All children will be welcomed back to school when it is safe and as staff we will ensure that mental well-being is the main focus for each child when we are back together.

It has been a very difficult time for everyone and we all have concerns about our own families and friends. While school has been closed many of us have been caring for family whilst working this is one of the main reasons we have chosen not to do live contact with our children. From a safeguarding point of view there have been a number of incidents where zoom accounts have been hacked and personal information has been shared about staff and children. When staff are working from home they have their own children/ family who clearly they need to protect. There are a number of staff who have poor internet connection because of where they are located and would be unable to maintain a strong enough signal to take part in a live feed. I hope this clears up the questions that a few parents have been asking.

If you require additional support for your child please email the class teacher, (not admin or head teacher), and someone on the frontline will phone you when they are in school. We do feel that there is enough work being set for all children across school. The main message is 'do your best and forget the rest'. It is ok for children to have down days where they just need to relax or do something else.

During the lockdown we appreciate that some parents' circumstances may have changed and it is vital that you share this information with us. If you have moved house, changed your contact details, changed your job please ensure that this information is sent into the office so that we can update your child's records. Also if your household has changed over the lockdown such as: loss of work, bereavement or breakdown of family, school needs to know so that we can start to put together a support package for when we return.

For our children and staff in school.

In order to keep everyone safe it is vital that we can trust each individual to follow the rules laid out by the government. There have been a number of parents who have brought to my attention that families have been attending parties both in the village and Oakwood. This puts all of us at risk and indeed is unfair to think that children will have mixed with a range of people. Those of us on the front line have our own families to return to each day and also have the responsibility for caring for the elderly which we should be able to do knowing that everyone we have contact with in school is following the guidelines set down. We have invested in a range of PPE equipment which staff can use as and when they feel it is appropriate. All children in school will be issued with their own equipment which does include tissues, stationary and hand gel. Parents will need to closely monitor your child's reaction to the hand gel and if they react to the gel contact school and we will try a different brand.

The first two days in school have gone really well and the children have been fantastic remembering the social distancing rules. We continue to run with skeleton staff to ensure that there remains a consistent approach to the remote learning. The children in school are completing the same tasks as the children at home with the restrictions of mixing.

Well done

Huge well done to Sophie-May who has started her own business creating postcards since lockdown. Sophie has been using her photography skills to capture images in her garden which have been made into postcards. Check out the site and see Sophie's designs living out our school value of dedication.

https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WritingLostArt?ref=search_shop_redirect

All money made is being donated to local charities. The first £200 has gone to Doorways Derby, fantastic Sophie.

Massive shout out to Scarlet in year 5, she has won the Energy competition that the whole school took part in back in February. Scarlet's design will be used on the huge billboard outside the INTU in Derby. We are awaiting her prize along with a prize for the school. Thank you Scarlet for living out our value of dedication.

Staffing changes:

It is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Knifton will be leaving the Stanley team at the end of the summer term.

Mrs Knifton has worked at Stanley since January 2007 and has decided to leave the teaching profession and focus on her family. This has been a huge decision for her and I respect the fact that she has thought long and hard about her focus in life. In the time she has been at Stanley she has helped move the school forward with her passion for every child having a voice and every child matters.

Mrs Knifton is known for her love of learning and has always maintain high standards in her classroom giving all children the very best education possible. The children in her care have always known that she can make learning fun, fair and always put the children in school before herself. In the past year she has worked really hard to support the special needs children in school and has be proactive in giving this small group a voice within the school community communicating with parents and outside agencies, this is something that I will continue.

The whole team will miss Mrs Knifton's fun, love for learning and friendship and we wish her the very best in her new path in life. I am mindful that Mrs Knifton's leaving service will need to take place in September alongside the year 6 service however, we would like to start a collection. If you would like to contribute to Mrs Knifton's collection please do this through parent pay, a new payment item will be set up for it.
Good luck Mrs Knifton school will not be the same without you.

In order to maintain some consistency in school Miss Price has agreed to be the Eagle class teacher. Many parents will know that Miss Price has been working in school since October. We welcome Miss Price back to school and look forward to working with her when the term starts.

Back in March, Sam from the school office was involved in an accident that resulted in her breaking her leg. She has been unable to weight bear for a number of weeks and is only just able to start walking with aids. We are unsure as to when Sam will be back to full health and send her lots of love and our thoughts while she heals.

Breakfast and After School Club

There will be no extended services for the rest of this academic year. We know how important this service is for you and we will endeavour to get it up and running again for the new school year from September. We will let you know of any changes we need to make to this service to keep everyone safe.

New starters

We are delighted to be welcoming 15 new reception children into school next year. We are really sorry that it has not been the usual transition that we pride ourselves on, but due to COVID we are unsure of what that may look like. The Robin team are working really hard to try to have something in place to ensure that their start to school is positive, fun and memorable. More information to follow.

Please check
your ParentHub



We send out most of our communications via the app. If you are having any problems with it, please 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. As a school we really want to be cashless. Again, if you have any issues with this, please let the office know.

Website:
Please Keep up to date with all the latest information on the school website

<https://www.st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

Class arrangements for next year:

Robins Mrs Gresswell & Mrs Hardy-Fryer with reception and year 1

Puffins Mrs Middleton & Mrs Adshead & Mrs Ellis with year 1 & year 2

Kingfishers Mrs Richardson & Mrs Rowles & Miss Willetts & Mrs Ellis with year 3 & 4

Eagles Miss Price & Mrs Davies with year 5 & 6

Building work

We were due to have some building work carried out in Kingfisher classroom to create an additional learning space. Due to COVID, this work will not be carried out this year but hopefully will be completed next summer holiday. After the torrential rain we have had a leak in the Robin classroom which has been repaired and the brick shed roof has a rather large hole in it which we are hoping to get repaired very soon. The school office has also been moved and is now set up in the quiet room, this will aid with the social distancing rules in place. The old office will be used for one to one sessions and staff PPA time.

Social Media and Tik Tok accounts:

We still have a number of children that have accounts on social media. They should NOT.

It is really disappointing to know that after all the time and money that has been invested into training 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 lying about their date of birth.

We continue to try to educate our children about sharing their personal data but need parents to take some responsibility with supporting the school. Children need to be clear that social media is not a toy and anything posted is there for everyone to see. 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.

School reports

This year's school reports will look slightly different to the norm as clearly we have only had half a year in school. The focus of the reports will be about your child as a learner including the relationships that they have formed. It will be based on how they have interacted with staff and their cohort alongside their achievements up until March. Reports will be sent out to parents in late July.

NSPCC

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

<https://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.



School Uniform orders:

Information will be uploaded to the website, with links to download order forms, new prices and how to place an order. Please do not start to buy uniform yet until we are sure about what the arrangements are for September.

School Meals:

School dinners from September will be £2.20 per day making it £11 per week for a full week of dinners. Children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 will continue to receive free meals as part of Universal Infant Free School Meals. Our catering will continue to be brought in from Scargill School and we look forward to enjoying their new menu in September. Which can be seen here.



https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/media/1918567/dcc-a3-standard-menu_spring-summer-2020_complete-web.pdf

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 check whether you are now entitled to Free School Meals, the preferred method of checking is by emailing the free school meals team checking@derbsyhire.gov.uk

If you need to make a new application, you can apply online at

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you are found to be eligible, school is able to provide you with supermarket vouchers for packed lunches during the school closure and the summer holidays. The Government guidelines state that you will remain eligible until March 2022, so it is really worth checking.

10 mindfulness exercises:

Mindfulness is useful for children and [adults alike](#), (follow the link for some adult mindfulness ideas for working from home, from BBC Good Food) with kids as young as nursery age learning about it in school. Watch a child absorbed in play and you'll see they are mini mindfulness masters!

Mindfulness is paying attention, noticing what's happening outside of you, as well as your thoughts and feelings, and letting it all be as it is.

It's a skill that helps us cope with big emotions and challenging experiences and, just like a muscle, it's something we can all build with practice.

Try the simple mindfulness techniques on the next few pages with your children if they are feeling anxious at home – they will help keep your family calm and centred.

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.

Summer reading challenge 2020

Have a look at the following link to the reading challenge.

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

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>


Mindfulness

Balloon belly breathing – to soothe?
Lie down somewhere comfy and imagine there is a balloon in your tummy. As you breathe in, imagine the balloon slowly inflates. As you breathe out, the balloon effortlessly deflates. Children can rest their favourite toy on their tummy and let them go along for a calming ride.

Warrior pose – for confidence and concentration. Stand up tall with your feet wide apart. Turn your right toes out and press your left heel away. Bend your right knee deeply, stretch your arms out at shoulder height and make like a surfer.

Hang ten for a few relaxed breaths, feeling the strength of your body, then shake out your legs and try it out on the other side. This is a great distractor from worried thoughts.


Visualise your safe place
– to feel grounded.
Where are your favourite soothing places in nature? You can visit them anytime in your mind. You could write a journey to your calm safe place, describing with all your senses how it feels to be there.



Sound meditation – to fuel curiosity. Snuggle down somewhere safe, close your eyes and listen to all the sounds around you. What can you hear? The clink of coffee cups, snippets of conversation, sounds from nature? Get curious and feel the buzz of life around you.

Savour your food – to encourage gratitude. The next time you have your favourite treat, make it a ritual of happiness and thanks. Don't let a second of pleasure pass you by unnoticed – the scent, how it feels in your hand, against your lips, the flavour on your tongue, the texture as you chew and the sensation as you finally swallow it. Even more delicious when you savour it!

Embrace music – to switch up your mood. Harness the mood boosting power of music by making your own playlists – one that helps you feel peaceful, one to help you focus and another to give you a feel-good hit. A good old sing always lifts the spirits, too.



Hug it out – to feel connected. Cuddles are like food for the soul, helping us feel safe and calm. Enjoy building your mindfulness muscles by giving a loving hug your full attention. Can you feel your heart beating, wrapped up in care? Tell yourself or your child: you are safe, you are loved, you are held.

Get creative – to express yourself. Let your feelings out with a spot of art. The choice is yours! You can journal, colour a mandala, make a model from recycling, paint up a storm or make your own animation on Scratch. Enjoy immersing yourself in the act of being creative – no hard work, just fun.

Make your mind garden beautiful – to grow happy thoughts. There is a garden in your mind, made by all your thoughts. Thoughts you enjoy plant the seeds for flowers you love. Worries or nasty thoughts plant the seeds for weeds. Now every garden has weeds so it's not about eliminating unhappy thoughts, but you can choose where you direct the sun and water by nurturing the thoughts that help you feel good. It all comes down to where you place your attention so choose wisely to grow a beautiful mind garden.

Legs up the wall – to soften and drop? Grab a blanket and a pillow, take a seat with your side against the wall and enjoy some time out. Roll onto your back, slide your legs up the wall, arrange the pillow under your head and drape the blanket over you for comfort. Now let your body flop and drop, the whole length of your legs held by the wall. There is nothing to be done right now and nowhere else to be.