

Learning and Caring Together,
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

16th October 2020

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER (3)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your extended families remain well. I am just writing to assure you that we continue to follow all safety measures previously communicated and that they are still working effectively in school. As the 'second wave' began to take hold in the UK, we updated our measures slightly and now ask that any essential visitors to our academy also wear a face mask within our communal areas.

As you will be aware, on 12 October the Prime Minister announced the introduction of a system of local COVID alert levels in England. The previously published tiers of restriction for education and childcare, summarised in [annex 3 of the contain framework](#), work alongside the new [local COVID alert level framework](#). At all local COVID alert levels, the expectation is that education and childcare provision should continue as normal. The government has been very clear that limiting attendance at schools should only be done as a last resort, even in areas where a local alert level is 'high' or 'very high'. Decisions on any restrictions necessary in education or childcare settings are taken separately on a case-by-case basis in the light of local circumstances, including information about the incidence and transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Government guidance to support education providers and parents during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings](#)

The impact of our Recovery Curriculum has been amazing to see. The children are happy, settled and have shared their 'sticky knowledge' with their teachers. Staff have a good understanding of the children's secure prior learning, have been 'plugging gaps' since our return and are ready to move forward with our curriculum after half term. You will have seen in the news about 'catch-up' funding for schools and we will be using this for interventions needed, as identified through teacher assessment since our return in September.

Within the last few weeks, we have celebrated National Poetry Day, been learning about healthy bodies and minds (including the benefits of active travel and eating healthily), Year 2 have led and shared their Harvest Service and we have donated food and raised money for charities too. Miss Gratton has also been leading on improving our teaching and learning of mental maths at St Edward's and we can already see the impact of this in classrooms and around school as we ensure that 'every minute counts'! Our School Councils are now

back up and running too. This year, the staff supporting our councils with their leadership roles and responsibilities will be:

- School Council - Mrs Blairs
- Eco Council - Mrs Gee
- Christian Council - Mr Warrington

We are looking forward to the initiatives they have planned so that we can make a difference in our local, national and global communities this year.

Before I sign off, I need to update you about our **FRESHSTART SCHOOL DINNERS**. Many of you have been asking and I am pleased to say that hot meals will now be available as a choice after half term. These will be made freshly on site and delivered to the classrooms. They will be served in bio-degradable lunchboxes and the children will use their usual metal cutlery. In terms of cold lunches, there will be a 'sandwich of the day' as an option to choose. All menus are available for you to see on Meal Manager and we will share them via Dojo and our website. I also need to share that the cost of Freshstart school dinners is increasing. The cost for paid dinners (children in Nursery, Year 3 and Year 4 who are not eligible for free school meals) will be £2.30 per meal from after half term. This is an increase of 10p per meal but I can assure you that these charges remain competitive and largely comparable with other school meal providers. Of course, packed lunches from home are still an option to choose but we ask that contents are balanced and healthy.

Have a lovely weekend everybody and I will see you all next week for the final week of Autumn 1!

Best wishes,



Mrs S. Machin - Principal



2019-2022

