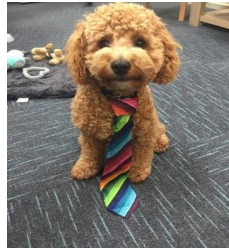


Learning and Caring Together,  
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**PRINCIPAL'S LETTER (1)**



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start my letter with a very big THANK YOU to you all. The children have arrived back in school happy and settled; you have clearly prepared them well for their return. You have also followed our measures ensuring that our school community remains as safe as possible.

It has been fantastic to see reduced parking outside our school gates. Thank you for improving safety, air quality and your health and wellbeing too. Many of you have walked and some have biked and scooted to school. This is a great start towards our Staffordshire County Council Travel Plan aims.

Although my feedback is largely positive, I know you will understand there are some safety reminders I need to share:

- Please keep a **MINIMUM 2m distance** between you/your children and other families during entry and dismissal;
- Ensure that your child enters and leaves promptly if there is another family behind you. **If your child is unsettled, or you need to give a message, you will need to 'do a loop'**. Remember the best way to share any information with your child's class teacher is via Class Dojo;
- Please be patient and **do not overtake** other families on the path during arrival or dismissal under any circumstance;
- The government have published guidance for parents regarding childcare. 'It is crucial that we are minimising the risk of transmission of the virus due to increased mixing between different groups of children. For this reason, you should consider sending your child to the same settings consistently, and consider carefully the number of settings they attend overall.'

I must also add that some parents have raised concerns regarding social mixing within the wider community. **I urge everybody to follow existing and Monday's changes to government guidance regarding gatherings** and their hand, face, space campaign. I am sure we agree that we all have a duty of care and responsibility for others as we limit 'the second wave' within the UK.

Your messages of gratitude and support following our return have, as ever, been most appreciated and I too am proud of my staff team and their passion for providing high quality education and care at St Edward's.

I would also like to formally welcome our 'new to school' children and to thank their parents for their fantastic support. Transition has been so very different this year; some children started school without them or their parents ever visiting the school. I can only imagine how I would've felt in that situation. Thank you for having faith and trust in our school culture and allowing us the privilege of taking care of your precious little people. They have 'done you proud' and we are lucky to have them as part of our St Edward's family!

Since our return to school, the children have been showcasing what they have remembered from learning in their previous class and from home last year. They have been engaging with our 'Recovery Curriculum' (This is on our website). As well as learning and getting used to their new safety rules admirably, the children have been engaging with stories and activities that help them to understand emotions and how and why we feel them. I have seen some fantastic 'Worry Monster' work and children using a jar to represent and talk about what they feel inside their bodies. The children have also been expressing their feelings through art.

I am sure that many of you have been told that Morris visited all classes this week. He is now 8 months old, very sociable and really enjoys being with the children. He also has an amazing ability to turn frowns into smiles and to make 'nervous tummies' better! He is also very impressed with super learning too. Morris and Rainbow and Cookie have certainly provided a positive distraction before the summer and since our return to school. Morris will be joining the children for playtime next week!

Our week has ended in a lovely way with our special 'Rainbow Day' in school. We have connected our classrooms digitally to 'sing' [I Can Sing a Rainbow](#) using British Sign Language as a whole school. I am sure the children will enjoy showing you – follow the link to learn it too! We have started creating memory time capsules about the Coronavirus Pandemic. We have already included children's work, safety notices, newspaper articles, photographs of Rainbow, Cookie and Morris, a school rainbow tie, Boris' mask (from our Scarecrow), key worker memories, memories from home and lots more. Thank you to our PTFA for fundraising as part of our day and for your generous contributions once more.

Our week ended with my Celebration Assembly today when, once again, we connected as a school via technology. Certificates will be proudly displayed in classrooms for one week and then be sent home in your child's book bag.

Before I sign off, I just want to let you know that, next week, we will be logging pupil numbers arriving in school at different times with a view to reducing the arrival time to 9.15am the following week (safety permitting). This would enable us to start whole class curriculum learning earlier which is, of course, important for your children's education.

Have a lovely weekend all. I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

Best wishes,



Mrs S. Machin  
Principal