

# Headteacher Newsletter – March 2021

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, London Road, Arundel BN18 9BA

Tel: 01903 882115 Email: [office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

It is wonderful to have a full, happy school again with a renewed 'buzz' of chatter, singing and laughter. Who knew we had so many children? The classrooms are full and vibrant.

There are many thanks to be given for the last couple of months. Thanks to staff for their dedication, commitment and full emersion into Remote Learning, to governors for their remote check in on safety aspects and ensuring that the school is compliant in all areas during the partial closure and finally to all the St Philip's families for the constant communication, votes of thanks, kind words, check ins and of course ensuring your children were accessing as much of the provision as they possibly could whilst at home.

Some of your children may be a little wobbly at the moment - asking for reassurance, needing more focused attention from you, seeking affirmation, feeling unsure about usual routines. This is all normal and will settle in time. I think we sometimes think that our children are alright and unaffected until a little while later we may start to see a few changes. They are seeking reassurance that things are safe, routines will stay the same and that nothing will happen to them or their loved ones.

The washing hands, staying away from people and adults wearing masks will have an effect at some point on even the most robust and resilient children. We must be patient and reassuring to them during this time both at home and at school. Routines and boundaries are important but so too is a warm cuddle or a listening ear (this can be challenging in our busy schedules). If you are worried then please let your class teacher know so they can support them that little bit more whilst in school.

Just to remind parents that now we are out of lockdown could you please revert back to emailing via the office address and not directly with the teachers. Many thanks.

## Dates for your diary:

**17.3.2021** Forest School Y6

**22.3.2021** PTC meetings all week

**26.3.2021** Science Day

**29.3.2021** Holy Week assemblies

**31.3.2021** Forest School Y5

1<sup>st</sup> April last day of term

**19.4.2021** First day of Summer Term

**21.4.2021** Forest School Y4

**28.4.2021** Forest School Y2

## Tea towels:

Apologies that the tea towels did not make it home in time for the end of term at Christmas. They arrived just as the children were leaving on the last day.

They have been sent out with your child this week. If you placed an order but have not received it, we may still have it if we are waiting for payment. Please contact the office.

## General info:

**Website:** All information is regularly updated on the school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

**Facebook:** Please go on to our school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk) and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

**Clubs:** Clubs will recommence after Easter. Information for signing up will be coming out soon. Providers will liaise with parents regarding payments from November lockdown.

**Masks:** Please can I remind parents to wear a mask at pick up and drop off (unless exempt through medical grounds). This includes when chatting to other parents by the railings. We have been very lucky so far to avoid any Covid-19 cases. Let us continue to be vigilant and careful. Thank you.

**Hair:** I appreciate that hairdressers are not open and so home cuts are required. Please try to factor in our ruling of no shorter than grade 4 if you are using a hair trimmer. If hair (boys or girls) has not been cut, please tie hair back if shoulder length or covering your child's eyes.

**Parent/Teacher consultations:**

We will once again be running these virtually on Google Meet or by telephone. The format at this point in the year is usually to look at books and discuss where your child is in terms of meeting their end of year expectations (are they on track?).

Obviously, this year will be different as the guidelines from the Local Authority are suggesting that we do not assess children as we would normally do at the end of the year. It is advised we do not use the usual words of 'above', 'below' or 'on track' as some of the curriculum will have been missed. This makes it challenging to discuss progress with parents as we do not have a set criteria to work to.

The discussion will therefore be about how your child coped at home and how they have settled back into school. You do not need to make an appointment if you would prefer not to (at this point, parents are probably more aware than ever of where their child is academically) however, you are most welcome to book in to speak with your child's teacher during the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

We will keep parents informed of how the end of year reports will look and will follow advice from the Local Authority.

**Lunchtimes field:**

With children having to be in separate 'zones' for breaktimes, space is limited. It makes life a lot easier when we can access the field and spread the children out further. We will start to use the field hopefully this side of Easter so I apologise in advance for muddy shoes and uniform that may need washing daily. Thank you for your understanding (let's hope the cleaners are also understanding!)

**Houses:**

House point scores for this week: (None this week)

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	
Brotherton	
Warene	
Fitzalan	

**Catch up fund:**

Using the money given to us from the 'catch up' fund allocated by the Government in the Summer, some families will have been contacted about some 'booster' sessions that will happen during the school day. These sessions will take place over 10 weeks and will support those children we have identified as needing a little extra support to ensure they meet the end of year targets. This will begin after Easter.

**Parking:**

I know parking is an ongoing headache for everyone – we are far better off than most schools! With staggered drop offs and pick ups, it would be really helpful if parents dropped or collected and went straight off from their parking spot. This means that the later drop off or pick up parents have a space to go into. If parents delay by chatting then we are making it even more tricky for everyone. Thank you all for your co operation.

**Mrs Bridges:**

As you will know, Mrs Bridges is currently off on maternity leave with her second child. She has decided for her own child care ease, to apply for a job nearer her home in Chichester. As such, she will be starting a new role at St Richard's in Chichester from September. We are of course, sad that she is leaving us but pleased she will still be within our Deanery group of schools. She will return to St Philip's in July for a short while once her maternity leave has ended.

**Subtitles:**

There is new campaign that promotes turning on subtitles whilst children watch television in a bid to improve reading skills. Here is a quote and a link to explain further.

*'Turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can **double the chances of a child becoming good at reading**. It's so brilliantly simple and can help children's literacy so much that we want to shout it from the rooftops!'*

[Home - Turn On The Subtitles](#)