



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

Headteacher: Mr J White BEd (Hons) NPQH

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School

Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 1NJ

Tel: 01438 729555

Email: admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk

www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk

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Dear parents and carers

I do hope that you have enjoyed seeing the pictures of the rich learning experiences that children are engaging in from home and in school. These are shared in our weekly Pupil Post so that everyone can feel connected. Several virtual Headteacher's Awards have been sent this week, nominated by the teachers. It is wonderful to be able to recognise our brilliant young people for all that they are doing during the strange 'new normal'!

I hope that many of you have enjoyed re-engaging with Mass now that our Churches are able to open. Please check your Parent Mail for a message from Father Michael and Father Nigel about arrangements for the extended opening of Churches in Stevenage.

This week's Friday Vlog, featuring our Virtual assembly on Wednesday with a theme of friendship / companionship can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSeezrFDapA&feature=youtu.be>

It was just delightful to see some of our youngest children dancing to 'You've Got a Friend in Me' at the end of our assembly – such joy, enthusiasm and spiritual engagement! Our young people are such a treasure!

This week my attentions have turned towards planning for September. Extensive guidance was issued to schools yesterday, however within the guidance there are many local decisions that still need to be made in order that the guidance can work. Nevertheless, it is good to know that we are, Covid data allowing, planning for a return of the full school in September.

I have attached a document that the Department for Education have produced which outlines what 'Parents need to know about September'. It is in many ways oversimplified and does not consider any local circumstances that will govern how we will operate in order to remain safe. However, at least it gives a flavour of some of the key issues we are planning with.

It is important to note, that although we are planning for a full return in September with children returning to their normal class sizes of up to 30, it will not be school as normal as there are many risks to mitigate in receiving 446 children and 60 staff back onto the site. There is also a great deal of preparation that is needed to ensure that this can happen safely.

Therefore, I should warn you that some issues may well make the format of the day rather different to usual:



- In order to introduce elements safely, it may be necessary to stagger the start dates for pupils (this is currently under review).
- Parental presence on the site will be limited (as it is now) and, as such, for the time being it is likely that contact between parents and staff will be mainly via email or telephone.
- We have yet to agree the size of the protective 'bubble' (either one class or two classes): this will determine what can be shared and connections that can be made.
- Breaks and lunches will be staggered to prevent mixing between bubbles (as they are now) and as such contact between children will remain limited.
- To prevent large numbers on site, a staggered start and end to each day will need to be maintained, as awkward as this is. Children will, however, be provided with the same amount of teaching time. These timings will need to be strictly adhered to in order that large gatherings can be avoided and is particularly pertinent on our site which has limited access points.
- The one-way system will have to remain and may even need to be extended into different areas on the site (internally and externally).
- It is likely that we will continue with cold meals / packed lunches only as the logistics of staggering the serving of a hot lunch for so many in a small space prevents the usual service. I have asked our provider, however, to find ways enhance school provided packed lunches with familiar items such as sausages and pizza in order to add variety.
- It is highly unlikely that the customary range of sporting clubs will be able to continue in the Autumn Term.
- Large gatherings will still not be permitted and, as such, class assemblies and other events will need to remain as virtual events, shared via our You Tube Channel.
- Planning for safe and 'bubble protected' Breakfast Club and After School Club remain a real challenge and it is possible that we will need to continue to limit the number of pupils that are able to access these facilities.
- In order to enable more efficient handwashing facilities (especially at the start of the day), we are looking to install several external sinks in key areas. It currently takes a great deal of time to admit each child (as they all must wash their hands thoroughly on entrance to school); as numbers increase to thirty in a class, this will take even longer and will further extend the drop off time. This will impact upon curriculum opportunities initially.
- Whole bubbles may have to isolate for 14 days (or be tested) where an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases) occurs. This would always be based upon the local advice of the Public Health authorities.
- It is unclear yet whether the school will need to close for one afternoon per week in order to provide the **statutory 10% PPA** (Planning Preparation and Assessment) time that is due to every teacher. If the school doesn't close on this afternoon, it is unlikely to be staffed by teachers or HLTAs for this period and, as such, the opportunities that would be offered will need to be rather different. We await further guidance from the Local Authority about this.

In the days ahead, I will be consulting with staff, Governors and families, ahead of producing a risk assessment that will enable us to make the school 'Covid Secure'. This should enable all to feel confident in the measures that we are able to put in place to mitigate any risks. Please do email (head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) areas that you would like me to consider when compiling this risk



assessment. I will of course share it with you, along with any details that you will require for September as soon as they are ready.

I will also be sending a survey to all families in relation to remote learning. The DfE guidance suggests that schools need to be ready to roll out high quality distance learning immediately should the need arise. I am keen, therefore, to gauge how distance learning has worked for you in order that we can continue to plan to overcome any barriers that may present themselves should the need arise in the future.

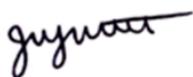
Please do remember, as explained in last week's newsletter that the **final day of term for all children (including Key Workers) is on Thursday 16th July not the Friday as previously published.** This allows school staff two days to prepare the school for the September return before the Summer break.

Please find attached details of some local 'summer holiday childcare / club' facilities should you wish to make use of them. These soon get booked up, so it is suggested that if you need them, book now!

Wishing you a peaceful and joyous weekend.

Thank you for all that you do support our amazing community.

God bless you and those most dear to you.



Jon White
Headteacher



Summer Holiday Childcare Provision in Stevenage

Where: Fairlands primary School, Pound Avenue, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 3JA
Contact: Liberty Grimmer 01493 717575



Where: Roebuck Academy, St. Margarets, Stevenage, SG2 8RQ

Contact: Jessie George on 07542 199 299

Website details: <https://www.brighterdayskidsclub.co.uk/>



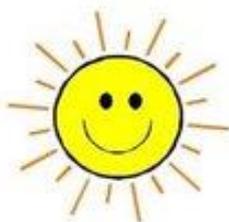
Where: Trots Hill, Wisden Rd, Stevenage SG1 5JD

Contact: WWW.RISINGSTARS-WRAPAROUND.CO.UK



PLEASE NOTE THESE SCHEMES ARE RUN BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL WHO ARE PROVIDING THE SPACE ONLY.

Holiday Camps are a fantastic way for children to continue to maintain social skills during the summer holidays. Particularly during this time where they may have less social interactions due to schools being partially closed. They also offer an opportunity for parents to work while their children are having fun.



Book early to avoid disappointment.



Trots Hill Primary and Nursery

Week 1 - 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th July
Week 2 - 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st July
Week 3 - 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th August
Week 4 - 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th August
Week 5 - 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st August

SPECIAL SUMMER PRICE!

£15 - HALF DAY (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£20 - FULL DAY 8AM - 5PM

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE EMAIL:
INFO@RISINGSTARS-WRAPAROUND.CO.UK

