



23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for all of your support and co-operation over the last few weeks. It has been lovely to have school full of children again. The children have all settled into the new school life exceptionally well and are all very good at washing their hands and social distancing! It is a shame that the usual highlights to our curriculum cannot take place at this moment in time. Hopefully we will once again have visits out of school, invite parents into school to share in their children's learning and go on residential adventures.

The new Nursery and Reception children have been absolutely wonderful and they have all settled into school life. We have been developing our home learning package and staff are receiving training so that they are ready to support your child when learning at home. Thank you for your support with ClassDoJo; it allowed us to communicate with parents whilst year one were isolating - we are hoping that everyone becomes familiar with the platform so that we are all prepared for remote home learning. After half term, we are going to begin training KS2 children to use Google Classroom. We will share information with you so that you are able to support your child on this platform.

Thank you to the amazing staff who have greeted your children with a smile every day.

### School events

Yesterday, we held an aspiration day. The children looked amazing and could talk about what they aspire to be in the future. Class teachers are sharing photos on the school website.

The children have produced amazing pieces of work based on nature. They would definitely make David Attenborough proud.

On Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, Year 6 are taking part in an adventure day in school. They must wear old clothes, as they will be outside getting muddy! A spare outfit can be brought in just in case they get too muddy!

### Applications for Secondary School and Reception Class 2021

If your child is currently in Year 6, please remember to make an application for the next phase of their education by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

You can now apply for a place for your child to start in Reception class in September 2021 at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk). The deadline for Reception applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. At the moment, we cannot offer any visits to look at our lovely school but will be sharing information on our school website next half term.

Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions about your child starting Reception in 2021.

### First Holy Communion 2020

The families of the children who were due to make their Communions in June will be able to make their First Holy Communion next month. These children will receive a separate letter with details on.

### First Holy Communion 2021

To support the parish and to protect our school bubbles, we will be hosting the First Holy Communion sessions for the children in Year 4 after the school day this year. Staff will be leading the sessions supported by Fr. Saji. If you would like your child to start the programme, please complete the letter that has been sent home to you and return to the school office by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. If you have not received the letter and would like more information then please contact Mrs Colley.





### **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Online Programme**

I am pleased to tell you that next half term we will be participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. Speak out. Stay safe is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child-friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.



The NSPCC has developed an online version of their Speak out. Stay safe programme to help overcome some of the challenges that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has presented in relation to having external speakers in school. In the online assembly, the Speak out. Stay safe messages continue to be delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we are convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the Speak out. Stay safe programme you can find more information on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout) or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

### **Talking PANTS With Your Children**

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at [www.nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants).

### **Childline Under 12's Website**

Childline also have a website with age appropriate advice for primary school children on topics such as bullying. It also has games and other interactive tools. Your child can visit it at [www.childline.org.uk/kids](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids). If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website [www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents)

### **Parent consultations- reminder**

We are arranging parent consultations to take place the week beginning November 9<sup>th</sup>. These will be via phone so please make sure that the school have the correct contact details. You will be able to choose an hour slot and the teacher will phone you within that hour. More information will follow in regards to this after the school holiday.

### **Water bottles- reminder**

Thank you for providing your children with water bottles. If you wish to purchase a school water bottle then please do on parent pay and we will hand them to your child. They must be taken home every night and refilled for the following day. This half term, we have provided the children with spare water bottles if they have not brought a bottle into school, however, we will NOT be continuing with this after half term therefore if your child does not bring a drink in daily, they will receive a drink at lunchtime, but no other water will be given.

### **After school clubs**

As a trial to starting after school clubs again, Grassroots are offering a gymnastic club for year 1 and 2 on a Friday after the school holidays from 3:30-4:30pm. To ensure the children remain in their bubbles, we will split the hall into two separate areas. The children are already in PE kits so please do not send any additional clothing. I am sorry that we cannot offer more clubs at the moment. Please book via parent pay.





### School dinners

A reminder that we are returning to offering full hot meals after the half term holiday rather than two days of cold meals.

#### WEEK 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Toad in the hole Mashed potato	Chicken curry and rice	Roast turkey, roast potatoes	Minced beef and dumplings Boiled potatoes	Fish and chips
Quorn savoury mince cottage pie	Cheese and potato pie	Quorn sausage hotdog in a finger bun.	Macaroni Cheese	Pizza and chips
Fruit Yoghurt	Jelly and fruit	Angel delight	Peach Crumble	Ice cream tub
Flapjack	Jam sponge	Crispy cake	Chocolate and orange cake	Fresh fruit

#### WEEK 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pasta Bolognese	Chicken and fried rice	Roasted chicken	Turkey and vegetable pasta bake	Fish fingers and chips
Cheese and tomato quesadilla	Quorn and vegetable cannelloni	Vegetable stew and dumpling	Vegetable curry with rice	Quorn burger in a bun
Fruit yoghurt	Ice cream sponge roll	Cornflake biscuit	Jelly and fruit	Fresh fruit
Marble sponge	Apple crumble	Hot chocolate fudge cake, with creamy custard.	Cornflake tart	Rice pudding and jam

### Flu Vaccination Programme reminder

The flu vaccinations will take place on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

### PE Kits reminder

The children look really smart in their PE kits. Thank you for supporting us with the changes. A reminder that it is a navy tracksuit with a white t-shirt, however, a school jumper can be worn if needed. Shorts or tracksuit bottoms can be worn (no leggings), but note that PE sessions will take place outside where possible. Children cannot wear a named PE kit, e.g. Nike, Adidas. If you have a difficulty in providing your child with a suitable PE kit, then please let us know as we can offer support. I understand that some children wear plain black instead of navy; this is fine until you need to replace it.

### What to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during half term break

I hope you are all safe and well. However, if your child is confirmed having COVID-19 during the up-coming half term break, I wanted to make you aware of the procedure you should follow.

The school office will be closed, but staff will be regularly checking the admin email account.

Please notify school of a positive test result by emailing [soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk](mailto:soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk) with the following information:

- Make the subject of the email – Confirmed positive case
- Your child's name and year group
- The date they first experienced symptoms
- The date they tested positive
- A contact number so a member of the staff team can contact you.

This will enable staff to identify close contacts with the positive case and inform any families who may need to isolate.

Keep safe and have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Tumelty  
Acting Head of School

