



Sacred Heart News



Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is hard to believe that four weeks have now passed since children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 joined us back in school and that we are now rapidly approaching the end of the summer term.

You may have seen by the videos shared online showing how well the children have adapted to their new normal. Their behaviour has been of a very high standard and they have all followed the stringent rules in place without exception. I am so proud of each and every one of them. Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed more new faces into the year groups and more key worker children too. One of the highlights of my day is seeing the smiling faces and listening to the chirpy voices of the children at the school gate.

The children have hit the ground running getting back into the routines of their English, Phonics, Reading and Maths daily sessions and have spent the afternoons exploring themes including well-being, Spain, Healthy Bodies and Minds and Science. These themes mirror the home learning opportunities across the year groups.

We are almost at capacity for the number of children we can have safely in school. Despite confusing messages from the government, Plymouth CAST are committed to putting safety first and we will continue with the thorough risk assessments put in place for June 1st and are not in a position to open for additional year groups before the end of term. What appears to be welcoming news is that unless things change with regard to Covid-19, we will be able to welcome everyone back in September. I will be working on what this will look like once we receive government guidance. As always, we do not get told anything in advance and hear the next steps in education at the same time as the rest of the country. These statements are announced with 'guidance will follow'. As throughout the entire pandemic, as soon as I know anything, I will share the information with you.

Keyworkers



An increasing number of families have been asking for a school place as the country slowly returns to work. Please remember that the school educare place only applies if you are a keyworker (essential to the covid-19 response). If you are a keyworker returning to work and qualify for an educare place, please give us as much notice as possible (at least the week prior to preferred start date) to allow time for me to sort out the logistics. If you were to request a place on a Monday for example, it would be very difficult for me to place them within that same week. Please contact admin@shrcps.org if you need to request a place.

We will be contacting parents of children in the priority year groups (R, 1 & 6) once more to give you one last chance to return to school before closing the offer.

Summer Holidays

We have not received any information regarding schools staying open over the summer and have been led to believe that Sacred Heart will close its doors for pupils and staff on Tuesday 21st July 2020 as set out in the term dates for 19/20. We are unable to offer Kinetics as a summer provision this year due to the 'indoor sports' restrictions still in place. This is frustrating but we are following advice from our Trust.



Observing Government Guidelines in the Wider Community

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the school in making the last fourteen weeks work. We have relied (and still rely on) on trusting our families to be adhering to government guidelines: social distancing rules, mixing with other families and generally staying alert and supporting the country in the fight against coronavirus. If you were unfortunate enough to contract covid, you have to report all contact that you have had. It's a good discipline to practise this exercise to review what your contact circle looks like. If you are not adhering to guidelines and sending your children into school, you are potentially exposing others to risk.



Staffing for September 2020

It is that time of year when parents and children are keen to find out who will be teaching in which year group in September. This information was shared with the teaching staff yesterday but the support staff placements still need refinement. Hopefully, I will be able to share with you next week.

Farewell

It is with great sadness that we will bid a farewell to Mrs Williams at the end of this academic year. Mrs Williams has been a part of the Sacred Heart family for many years in many different guises: parent, teaching assistant and for the last three years as a much-respected class teacher. Many of you will know of Mrs Williams' passion for working with children with special education needs. She will be starting a new adventure as a class teacher at Coombe Pafford school in Torquay. As much as we're going to miss her, we wish her well in her new post.



Library/AR/Phonics Books

At the beginning of lockdown, each child was provided with two reading books to take home. We would really like for these to be returned over the next two weeks so that they can be quarantined and then placed back in the library system. There will be a box placed outside the school office for you to drop the books off over the next two weeks. We will also provide a box in the playground. Could we please ask for the phonics books to also be returned. This large number of books equates to a considerable amount of our precious stock that we are not in a position to replace.



Sun Safety

Please ensure that you are putting sun cream on your child before school and sending them in with a hat. If you are sending sun cream into school for re-application, it needs to be labelled with their name and will need to stay in school until the end of term. You will also need to practise applying the cream with your child.

Take care everyone and stay safe,

Mrs Nichola Day

Headteacher