



Stondon Lower School

Friday 11th September



The Welcome Back Newsletter

Welcome back!

Firstly a big thank you to everyone for all their support during our reopening phase. It's been brilliant to have all the children back in class where they should be. It's been a long time coming... We look forward to welcoming our Reception class, some of whom have started already in small groups! If there is anything which you or your families experienced over the summer break or lockdown that we are currently unaware of and that might affect your child, please do let us know.

Drop off and pick up

I thank you all so very much for being so accommodating with our new arrangements, dropping off and picking up. I have been really impressed with all the positivity and understanding that you have shown and being able to drop off and pick up at different times and different places! I hope you are all feeling as safe you can be on and just outside site. I am so grateful to everyone especially where this puts people out a bit. Remember to take care yourselves when leaving this way as there isn't a path. When the weather gets worse and the ground more muddy, you may all need to wear your wellies coming up the back path and through the school field! We are looking at some temporary flooring but this may not be cost effective.

When the social distancing and meeting in groups rules are tightened from Monday 14th September, it will be even more important not to hang around on school premises for your own health and safety. You may also decide you want to wear masks as there are more people around.

We have noticed when parents are collecting their children from the front door that they are not coming in to the playground to wait but instead are waiting the other side of the railings. This then means that the pavement is becoming congested and makes it difficult for families trying to get past. Please come in to the playground and find a space when waiting for your child.

Can we also please remind parents not to let their children climb on the playground wall or railings, this is for their own safety.

Children's clothes

I know there has been some delays to uniform arriving and I just want to reassure everyone, that it's fine. Uniform is expected but I am not at all worried about odd items that Parents are struggling to get, at this point. The children have been wearing very appropriate outdoor PE kits and having them come to school in these is really helping! Long may the good weather continue.

It would be really useful for everyone to have wellies in school and also an old shirt or t-shirt for art, messy activities so we aren't sharing in school. Make sure these are named, that your child can identify them and send these in in named bags to live on their pegs.

Reading diaries

Whilst we can send home reading books, we have to quarantine these before they can be put back into circulation. We are currently unable to write in the home school diaries at this point because of the risk of transmission. You will see that we will start using a stamp when we hear a child read in school. Please still use the diaries to communicate with the teacher and they will telephone you back if needed or requested. In Reception, year 1 and year 2, we check the diaries daily and in Year 3 and 4, we encourage the children to tell the teacher if there's a message from home, so please make sure that you ask your child to show or tell the teacher of TA if you have written a message. We are also having to make changes to the way we mark work in school as we can't write directly into children's books at the moment again because of the risk of transmission.

Communication with school

There is obviously much reduced opportunity for you to talk to teachers or teaching assistants at the door at drop off and pick up. Please do use the home school diary, phone and speak to the office or email in if you have an issue or need to have a conversation with the teacher. They will phone you back.

PTA

The PTA are seeking new members and will be writing to all parents and carers to invite you join the committee and support with fundraising. Look out for their flier in the next few weeks and please do consider if you can spare some time to support them. The income generated from the PTA is vital funds for the school and has been used in the past on a range of purchases which have enhanced school life including the annual visiting theatre group, ipads and laptops and library books.

Changes to school life because of Coronavirus

There will need to be changes to many of the things that usually happen in school whilst we can not safely allow parents and carers onto site. Below are some of the things that will still happen in some way albeit virtually using either Teams or Zoom. Examples of this will be parent assembly, Harvest festival, Parents' evenings and even a Christmas performance... maybe! We are looking at purchasing classroom microphones and wide angle web cams to help to make it easier for these sorts of events. But other events **just can't happen**, Macmillan coffee morning, parents' open classroom sessions or a Christmas fayre!

Please make sure your child comes to school every day with a full water bottle.

PE Days

On days that your child's class has PE please send them in to school in weather appropriate PE Kit.

Year 1— Monday and Tuesday

Year 2- Tuesday and Friday

Year 3— Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4—Tuesday and Friday

Events this term

Macmillan Coffee Morning– Friday 25th September

Usually in September we would take part in supporting Macmillan's world's biggest coffee morning, this year unfortunately we will be unable to hold a coffee morning in school.

However if you would like to hold your own coffee mornings at home (following current Government restrictions) and make a donation to Macmillan then we would be more than happy to collect the donations and send them in to Macmillan via a cheque. If you wish to make a donation please put the money in a sealed envelope, marked for the office and send it in to school with your child.

We would love for you to share any photos of your coffee mornings with us. Please email these in to the office and we can add them to our newsletter



Harvest Assembly– Week commencing 12th October (date and time to be confirmed)

We currently are holding our daily assemblies via Zoom. This way we can all join in but from our own classrooms. We will also be holding our Harvest celebration via an online platform and will be inviting parents to join us from home.

Details of the Harvest Celebration will be confirmed and sent out to you nearer the time.



Sibling Photos– 12th November

Our photographer is due to come in to school on Thursday 12th November to take individual and sibling photos. We will be able to take sibling photos of those children who are in school but unfortunately will not be able to invite younger children in to have photos taken with their siblings this year.

We hope you understand our reasoning behind this decision.



Parents evening– Week commencing 9th November

As we are currently trying to limit the number of people coming in to school this year Parents Evening will be slightly different. We plan to hold Parents Evening over an online platform. We hope to be able to offer a range of time slots including day time, after school and evenings over a few days.

Days, times and how the sessions will work will be sent out to you nearer the time.

PARENTS'
EVENING

Christmas performances– week commencing 14th December

We are still hoping that the children will be able to take part in Christmas performances this year although it will be slightly different to normal. Parents will be able to watch via an online platform and there may not be 'live' singing but we have some thoughts in how we can make it work and will of course make it as fun and magical as always.

More information will be set out nearer the time.

