

# ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Braund

13 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to start by thanking you all for making me feel so welcome at St George's. It has been a very busy but enjoyable start to the school year. It has been smashing meeting so many of you. The children have really impressed me - very smiley and very enthusiastic.

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Gavins to the school. She is absolutely thrilled to be at St George's Catholic School and we are pleased to have her on the team.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend the start of school year meeting on Monday. A lot was covered and I have included the information below.

## **Open-door policy**

Please do remember that we have an open-door policy at the school. If you have any questions or need to speak with a teacher then please do. We do recommend that you see the class teacher after school rather than first thing, unless there is something that the teacher needs to be aware of straight away. I am very mindful that there are incidents in schools where it is easy to make a comment on social media if a parent is unhappy about something in school. I would urge all parents and carers to refrain from this and come and speak directly with the staff.

## **Contact details and permission slips**

Attached to this letter are various permission slips that we ask that you sign to give permission for your child's photograph to be displayed in school, on the school website and in the press. Names of pupils will not be published with the photo. We also ask that you sign the slip which allows the school to walk your child to the Church or the Library. We have also attached a contact details slip for you to complete and return even if there are no changes. It would be very much appreciated if you can inform the school straight away if any of your contact details change.

## **Healthy Snacks**

Please could all children bring a piece of fruit with them to have at break-time. Due to the popularity of school dinners, some children are not having lunch until 12:40 and a piece of fruit to enjoy at 11am break will tide them over until lunch.

## **School Dinners**

I have been really impressed with the quality of school dinners which are supplied by Bishop Fox's Secondary School. All KS1 are entitled to a free school meal and I would certainly recommend them. Please can forms be completed and handed in by the specified date so that Bishop Fox's have time to process them.

## **School Uniform**

I have been so impressed with how smart the children are in their St George's uniform. They are all very proud to wear it. It is our long-term plan to have a link on our website where parents and carers can order the uniform. The school will keep sample sizes to try. We feel that this will make the ordering of uniform easier for everybody.

## **Sickness**

Just a reminder that if your child has a sickness bug or tummy bug, it is school policy for your child to be kept off school for 48 hours after the last time that they were sick.

### **Attendance**

It is our aim that we have children attending school for 100% of the school year. The school has an attendance officer that visits every half term to assess attendance at the school. If your child is off school due to illness, please contact the school as soon as possible. I cannot authorise holidays in school time unless it is for exceptional circumstances.

### **Listening to children read**

We would really appreciate it if all children can read to a parent or carer on a daily basis. It would also be super if the children could be read to regardless of their age.

### **Helping at home**

We are often asked how parents can support at home. I would suggest the following:

Reading, spellings, mental maths, discussing what your child has been doing in school, speaking and listening, playing board games such as snakes and ladders etc.

### **Clubs**

Mr Lake kindly sent out a list of clubs that the children can sign up for. Clubs started back this week and I am delighted with the range of clubs offered at the school.

### **PTA**

I would ask all parents and carers to support the school with one PTA fundraising event during the school year. Money raised at such events goes directly to the school to benefit the children. Helping at such events is a brilliant way to meet other families.

### **School Website**

Please check the school website on a regular basis for news and information. Most information should be found on the website.

### **Parking at the school and road awareness**

Thank you for your support and consideration when parking at the school for drop-off and pick-up times. The school operates a one way system and it works effectively when followed by all. Please can you stay in your car when in the road before turning into the car park/KS1 playground. I would also ask that you refrain from pulling into the bays on the left hand side of the staff car park as additional staff are left without spaces to park.

Please can I ask all parents, carers and visitors to the school to be extra careful and cautious when driving around the area of the school. I am very aware that there is a high congestion of traffic in such a confined space and need your support with reducing your speed and being aware of our children and parents leaving the premises on foot and in a vehicle. I have contacted Councillor John Hunt at Taunton Deane and Gwyn Hughes at Taunton Deane and have asked for them to meet with me.

### **Pick up**

Please can all parents and carers of children in Class Three and Four wait on the side playground at the end of the day. Mrs Gavins and Mr Lake will walk the children to the side playground at the end of the day.

### **Pinkery**

Wishing the Year Six children a brilliant week away at Pinkery. I know they will have a wonderful time and will enjoy all the new experiences. Many thanks to Mrs Earp and the staff for organising such a brilliant opportunity for the children.

Kind regards

*Mark Braund*

Mark Braund  
Headteacher