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12th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and healthy! It feels a long time ago that we reopened the school for all pupils but I want to commend all pupils for coming back to school with a thirst for knowledge and the want to learn. Our remote learning provision allowed the children to pick their learning up and keep striving forward. In our bubbles, we are slowly trying to introduce a 'new normal' and opening school a little wider.

Covid-19 cases

Unfortunately, even though the government are beginning to relax social restrictions, coronavirus is still prevalent in our day to day life. Most recently, we have had a confirmed case in our Year 5/6 bubble and a small number of children were identified as close contacts and will be self-isolating at home.

You may be aware that Wilsthorpe School had been forced to close due to the high number of Covid-19 cases, we have continued to review our risk assessment and work with Public Health England to keep the staff and pupils as safe as possible. We need to ensure we are vigilant in our approach to living with the virus. Please can we continue to be considerate to each other by wearing masks on the school playground, maintaining social distancing and avoiding household mixing indoors.

COVID-19 notifications

Please can you support our school community by following the guidance from Public Health England.

- Do not send your child into school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste / smell). If you feel that any of these are present, please support school staff and other pupils by keeping your child at home. Any siblings must stay at home as well – even if they have no symptoms.
- Arrange for a PCR test for anyone who has symptoms; as soon as you notice them, and let the school know the outcome. If a member of your household tests positive or have symptoms, please contact the school via the school office enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk so that they can start tracking close contacts.
- Where one member of the household has symptoms, everyone in the household must stay at home until the person with symptoms has a negative test.
- Where one member of the household tests positive, everyone in the household must isolate for 10 days.

Parents Evening

Thank you for joining with your class teachers for the recent parents evening, I hope the technology worked and you were able to celebrate the work your children have produced this far as well as discuss any worries you may have. It has been tough not being able to meet face-to-face for all of us, thank you for supporting the school with the Covid-19 hurdles we are facing.

Teacher Correspondence

Following our most recent Inset Day where we looked at ways to support staff wellbeing and workload, we discussed emails to each other and although it may have been a convenient time for the sender to email, it may have not been for the recipient. You know how dedicated our staff are and will answer emails, phone calls and hold meetings at a moment's notice, we are making a concerted effort to reduce the number of emails to each other outside working hours. Therefore, could I please ask you to help with workload issues by emailing staff via enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk and the admin staff will send the emails first thing in the morning. Thank you.

Homework

As a school, we have paused our usual approach to homework until the end of the school year. Each class teacher has highlighted areas that need to be addressed for their year group and this will look different across the school. Moving forward, we will be revising our homework policy and will be sending out a survey to gain parents' opinions before July to help us prepare for September.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

This term, we have introduced a number of after school clubs run by our sports coach, Miss Lee, and a number of teachers have started clubs for their bubble. We are going to extend the clubs a little wider for our final half term, although slightly restricted numbers and in our bubbles, and hopefully our youngest members' of school will be able to join in too.

End of Year Assessments

As you know, the government has cancelled all statutory testing for this academic year due to the pandemic. In light of this, our Trust has been working hard behind the scenes to devise a clear plan for the assessment of pupils across all year groups; including those at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This will help support the pupils' transition process into their new year groups/schools for the next academic year. As many pupils have been learning at home for a significant part of the Lent term, we have delayed this assessment process until the second half of the Pentecost term. This approach will maximise the amount of time available for pupils to learn the knowledge and skills planned for them this year, in different subjects, to prepare them well for the next stage of their education. All assessment decisions will be informed by using teacher judgement, using materials that are familiar to the children. We believe that this low-key approach will be fair, informative and supportive of our children's well-being.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year will be held as a pupil only event. After many deliberations and discussions with our Trust Executive Team, we have decided to hold sports day on Thursday 1st July 2021 without any spectators. We will maintain our bubbles throughout the day; Key Stage One will take part in the morning and Key Stage Two in the afternoon.

We know this will come as a disappointment for many of our families but we are hopeful that next year we will be able to open our doors wide and invite families into school without the worry of social distance guidelines.

Charities

EM family you have surpassed all expectation so far this year in terms of supporting our charities – so far we have collected for the Canaan Trust, supported Children in Need, raised £228.25 for the Poppy Appeal, donated for our local food banks, Y5 and Y6's have hosted non-uniform days in support of NDCYS, Bumblebee Conservation and Rainbows Hospice, we've also raised money through our continued book sales of "The School at the end of the Rainbow" for Our Lady of Hope, Bunkpurugu and raised over £1000 for CAFOD's 'Walk for Water' campaign. WOW!! You are all amazing Team EM!

Lockdown Resources

Please could you return any resources that were loaned out as part of the pupil packs – whiteboards, whiteboard rubbers, books, rulers etc as we prepare for September. A box will be left outside of office and the children can return them via their classrooms.



Message from FEM

The FEM are giving the chance for all children to become "Rebels for our Cause" on one day only!

Friday 21st May

- Pick one or more of the school rules in the list below
 - Pay 50p fine per rule break into class jar on the day
- Only then, will Mrs Jones allow you to...

BREAK THE RULES

No crazy hair or hair accessories
School shoes only - No trainers
School jumpers only - No hoodies
No caps/hats in class
No nail varnish
Only fruit at snack time



Please ensure exact money is sent into school, as due to current circumstances, change cannot be given. Thanks for all your support!



Pupil Parliament

This week the children of Y4 and Y5 voted for the pupils who will represent our school in the St Ralph Sherwin Pupil Parliament. We are sure you will agree that Flo Agius and Claudia Roberts are excellent choices and will make us proud.

The St Ralph Sherwin Pupil Parliament promotes pupil leadership opportunities, enabling children to develop valuable communication, organisation and debating skills through key roles of responsibility and new experiences. They will be working with other pupils from the other schools in the Trust on a range of different issues e.g. the environment, charity, equality and diversity, healthy lives and our mental wellbeing. Our Pupil Parliament members will be the voice for 8,000 of their peers across our #SRSfamily of 25 schools.

Hardship Fund

The St Ralph Sherwin Trust, a family of 25 Catholic academies, acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly in light of the adverse effects of the Coronavirus in 2020 on the community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trust Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students of our academies and intended to help students who are experiencing difficulty through hardship in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses
- Uniform, shoes, or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

Please contact the enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk for further information.

And finally,

Some sad news to end our newsletter this month, it is with a very heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Huckerby, who will be leaving us at the end of May and taking the leap into a secondary school office at Chilwell School. Mrs Huckerby has worked at English Martyrs' for the last 9 years and will be sorely missed. She is without a doubt the most organised woman we have ever met; we will do our best to maintain her systems (fingers crossed!). We have thoroughly enjoyed working with her every day and we are sure you will join us in wishing her luck on her next venture. Good luck Carolyn xx

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'E Jones'.

Emma Jones
Acting Headteacher