

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As always, I hope that you are all staying happy and safe.

Having been teachers yourselves for a whole term, I am sure that you will appreciate the Half Term break! You have now experienced teaching first hand and will understand why holidays are so important — to reflect upon what the children have learnt and what they will need next. Most importantly, it is a time for the children to re-charge their batteries and enthusiasm, while having a chance to consider what they have learnt and commit this to their long term memory.

Thank you for the kind and positive comments which you have shared regarding the online learning experience. We are really fortunate at St Botolph's to have such a dedicated staff team and I would also like to pass my thanks onto them.

I hope you all have a lovely week off and I look forward to welcoming some children back on 1st June. Let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Kind regards,

Amy Chitty
Head Teacher



SCHOOL REOPENING ON 1ST JUNE

As you know, schools will reopen for children in YR, Y1 and Y6 from Monday 1st June. In line with Government guidelines, children attending school will be grouped into *bubbles* of no more than 15 children, with provisions put in place to minimise contact and mixing and to ensure good hygiene.

The Government has recognised that children find it very difficult to socially distance and have therefore put in place the following measures:

- Avoid anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning
- Minimise contact and mixing

We therefore need to reiterate that we **cannot** guarantee social distancing for any children attending school.

Unfortunately, no parents will be allowed to enter the site, other than those dropping off/picking up children in Year R and Year 1; these parents should only use the KS1 playground, complying with the social distancing requirements.

Any communication with the school should be via telephone (01474 365737) or email (office@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk). If face to face contact is necessary, it will be by appointment only, with one parent only, with strict social distancing measures adhered to.

Please don't always listen to the media; some news is not always completely factual! We would much prefer you to contact the school if you have any questions, rather than rely on information that may not be correct.

During Half Term, there will be no online learning - take time to relax and enjoy the break!



Important Email addresses:-

Don't forget, you can contact our staff via email at the addresses below:-

General enquiries:- office@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk
Safeguarding:- headteacher@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk
senco@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk
IT problems:- assistanthead@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk

YEARS R, 1 AND 6

Provisions have been put in place for those children coming back to school, as detailed in the emails sent out last week. The start and finish times for these year groups is

- ◆ Y6 - 8.40am - 3.00pm
- ◆ Y1 - 8.50am - 2.50pm
- ◆ YR - 9.00am - 2.40pm



A few additional arrangements have now been introduced:

- Parents who do not commit to their child/ren returning on 1st June must wait until Monday 22nd June for the next opportunity for their child to start back at school. This will follow the next announcement due from the Government.
- School will finish early on Friday afternoons, apart from for 'Hub' children. This will allow for teacher preparation and additional cleaning. The finishing times on Fridays will be as follows:
 - ◆ YR - 12.40pm
 - ◆ Y1 - 12.50pm
 - ◆ Y6 - 1.00pm
- Children returning to school on 1st June are committed to remain in school for the rest of the term.

Online learning for those children not returning to school will continue, although this may be slightly different to the learning previously provided.

Don't forget that school meals for children returning in Year 6 need to be paid for via ParentPay as usual. Children in Years R and 1 will be entitled to their normal free school meal.

You will be receiving an email shortly, telling you who your child's teacher and teaching assistant will be.

YEARS 2, 3, 4 AND 5

Online learning will continue, although your child's work may be overseen by a member of staff other than their usual teacher.

If you need assistance, or are having any difficulties, please contact the school and we will work with you to ensure your child can continue to learn.

The whole school Take One topic will be 'Passport to the World', looking at a different country each week.

HUB CHILDREN

The school will remain open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, who have absolutely no alternative but to send their children to school. If you feel that you fall into this category, please telephone the School Office on 01474 365737 or email office@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk. You will be required to provide contact details for your employer for us to verify this.

The start and finish times for these children will be:

8.30 - 3.05pm

We would prefer that children attending the hub provision attend every day.