

St. George's Primary School

CLARENCE ROAD, PORTLAND

DORSET DT5 2BD

Headteacher: MRS J LUXON

Email: office@stgeorgesportland.dorset.sch.uk

TEL: 01305 820520

www.stgeorgesportland.dorset.sch.uk

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NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the first half term, I hope you all have a lovely holiday. We have been blessed with mild weather since returning in September, and long may it last.

This month, we experienced the Ofsted we have been waiting for and although I cannot officially broadcast the result, I would like to emphasise that I am incredibly proud of my staff, pupils and governors who strive to make St George's such an incredible school with nurture at the heart of everything we do.

When Ofsted release the result, you will be notified via email. The findings will be placed on the website.

To summarise, the Inspection was a positive experience and we are all looking forward to the following months ahead.

Many parents have asked about Covid restrictions in school. I realise that parents are worried about Covid and the effect it has on the school and at home. Until the DFE inform me of changes nationwide, I am under the DFE's guidelines.

If the number of Covid infections rise significantly, I will reinstate some of the Covid procedures that we had in place throughout the Pandemic. These may include the use of face masks in communal places, class or year bubbles and a temporary closure of school clubs etc.

Hopefully, through regular handwashing plus heeding NHS advice, we can avoid these restrictions. Currently, we inform parents whose children have been in **close** contact to a positive Covid case. Part of the advice given, is to offer parents the chance of their child going home for a Lateral Flow Test and/or PCR test.

This will mean a few days at home, (authorised), but it may reduce further infections and give parents peace of mind that any sign of Covid can be isolated in line with NHS guidelines.

I am aware of the fact that secondary schools in this area have been badly affected by rising rates of infection. If parents have siblings in both secondary and primary, it would be prudent to exercise increased vigilance spotting any signs of Covid within the family. Please continue to notify us a.s.a.p., as your help and co-operation have been so useful.

After half term, we will be using 'School Cloud' to deliver Parental Consultations. These will take place on Monday 8th November and Wednesday 10th November. Further details will follow shortly.

When Covid infections lessen, we will resume our face to face parents' meetings.

Many parents felt safer communicating virtually and it is hoped parents find these online sessions informative and helpful in knowing ways their children can further receive help at home.

May I remind parents that Attendance Panels will resume after the holiday.

As children have missed chunks of their education due to the Pandemic Lockdowns, it is imperative that your child attends school at all times. Any urgent or exceptional reason for absence must be agreed by the school prior to the days requested. Some children are arriving at school late and this for some has become a habit. Not only is it essential for your child to attend school, but we are concerned if any child is late. Please ensure that your child starts school at 8.45 am and does **NOT** arrive before 8.40 am. School starts at 8.45 am.

I would like to thank parents for their kind donations for Harvest this year.

It is such a pity that our usual church events and whole school assemblies cannot take place, but we still recognise the importance of key aspects such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter being part of a child's experience of school life. I realise the value of such events and despite being a forward thinking school, respect, manners and awareness of important events in our lives is as important as academia.

At St George's we want to inspire our pupils and develop their self-belief in order to achieve great things. We want them to be the best person they can be. As part of our commitment to celebrating pupil achievement and traditional British Values we have been rewarding our pupils for their effort and dedication to their school work, the local area and even the global community. Successful nominees can win one of our special ammonite badges, there are 5 colours to collect.

To be awarded with this honour, a nominee must consistently fulfil one or more of the following criteria.

- Displaying excellent behaviour – being a role model to other pupils;
- Participating/supporting a local/national/global charity;
- Demonstrating curiosity and wonder when learning about the wider world;
- Representing the school or other organisation in a leadership role;
- Demonstrating excellence in Science, Design Technology, Humanities, Music, Sports or the arts;
- Showing bravery and resilience when tackling a new challenge;
- For knowledge, understanding and empathy of a cultural or global issue;
- For going the extra mile in _____ (to be defined by the proposer)

If you know of a child in our school who fulfils these criteria then you may access a nomination form on the school website, by clicking on the 'Parent' tab.

All proceeds for Harvest will be taken to the Portland Food Bank, represented by our School House Captains.

The Food Bank has already thanked us for helping to support those who are struggling at this moment of time. **A BIG THANK YOU** from St George's.

Over half term, St John's Church, Fortuneswell is offering a free workshop for all pupils on Wednesday 27th October between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. Children will be able to enjoy creating a variety of Christmas decorations, refreshments are provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult and St John's welcome you all to this enjoyable event.

To summarise this newsletter by thanking all those who have worked tirelessly to support St George's with everything we do.

We are pleased to welcome governors back in school, as their interest and dedication are very appreciated.

Currently we are not allowing parents in school unless by appointment. This is to help reduce any chance of Covid infections in school. Whilst we all work together, it is hoped that disruption to school life will be avoided and reduced.

May I thank parents for NOT driving into the school car park at any time including club days. Once again the health and safety of everyone is of significant importance.

Parents must not stand on the road between the gates, or in the main areas where cars may be manoeuvring or parked.

The Health Centre also thank parents for NOT leaving their cars in their parking area to drop off/collect their children.

School finishes at the normal time of 3.15 pm on Friday 22nd October and school starts again after half term on Monday 1st November 2021.

In an effort to reduce disruption to classes, please ensure that your child has everything he/she needs every day. The number of forgotten items has risen gradually, and again, to avoid unnecessary contact during school hours, please remind your child not to expect parents to drop off items such as PE kit/water bottles etc. We are able to give any child drinking water if they forget their own water.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing the children back next half term.

Best Wishes

Mrs J Luxon

