

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We do appreciate that these are unsettling times however children are amazingly resilient and have already responded positively during all our discussions. We are so very proud with how they have dealt with news such as the cancelling of events and as they have seen less of their friends and staff in school each day. We need to harness their amazing positivity and their ability to deal with disappointment now more than ever.

As teachers we have the most fantastic job teaching these wonderful young minds and we urge you to do what we marvel in every day, stop and really listen to them as they play, as they talk to each other, as they ask each other questions or act out stories with their toys. You will learn so much about what they are thinking, how they learn and how they adapt when things don't work.

We know that many people are choosing to create timetables and routines and to fill their days with lessons and learning we urge you to take a moment to treasure this time with your children, to greet a pace of life that may be very different with a calm and reassuring manner.

Do not burden yourselves with national curriculum expectations; your children will continue to learn lifelong lessons.

- to be **thankful** for what we have,
- to be **peacemakers** in difficult times,
- to show **love** and **compassion** to all,
- to **trust** in people to keep us safe,
- to maintain our **friendships** in creative ways at a distance and
- to always **forgive** even when it may be really hard.

In school we have had discussions about how our "Rainbow Rules" apply in life not just at school. We have sent home their own poster please use these in discussions with your child when you need to, they are helpful in referencing behaviour in the world around them as well as their own behaviour.

Many of you have requested home learning opportunities so we have sent home reading books, library books, some paper activities, exercise books, the St John's challenge and access to Purple Mash. All this information is available on the Parents/Home Learning page of the website. Teachers will add English and Mathematics activities to Purple Mash on a Monday, and topic learning on a Wednesday. None of this is compulsory it is meant to be useful in the absence of school. All we ask is that you talk, laugh, play, create, pretend, sing and enjoy as much as possible it will be good for you as well as them. Read, read and read some more this could be poems, rhymes, jokes, non-fiction or stories to your children and them to you. If this is prolonged, we do have some ideas for ways we can continue to support such as library open days to change books.

During the closure the telephones will not always be manned but the office@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk is being regularly monitored during office hours by school staff so please use this for any communications, enquires or if you need support during this indefinite interruption to schooling.

Be kind to yourselves, prioritise things that are truly important and pace yourselves. Follow the guidance and adhere to social distancing or isolation to keep yourselves and others safe. It will also ensure we return to our routines as quickly as possible. Let's do this well, and we will see you all very soon.

Please keep in touch if you need us, we are here to help, as we too protect and care for our own families.

From The St John's family

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

All other advice remains the same.

Public Health England advice

What to do if your child or anyone in your household presents potential symptoms Public Health England has stated that the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID19) are the recent onset of:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature described as 37.8 degrees or above

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection but if your child has any of the symptoms listed above, **however mild**, you should keep them at home and not allow them to leave the house **for 14 days** from when the symptoms started (self-isolate). **If you or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms listed above, however mild, then the whole household are advised to self-isolate for 14 days.**

The 14 days represents the potential incubation period (the time it takes for symptoms to show if you have been infected). **If you or any one in your household are in one of the high risk groups and are taking social distancing precautions, please contact the school to inform us of your decision. We are here to help.**

Advice on what social distancing means for everyone (not just the vulnerable)

Please find the advice below, this applies to everyone.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults