



St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

21st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support in these tricky times. The atmosphere in school continues to be happy and hardworking and I'm starting to get to know the 103 wonderful children at St Giles, even though I haven't quite remembered all their names yet!

As usual, I've got a few reminders and bits of news to share with you.

Remote Learning

There are several reasons that we might have to return to children learning from home, including:

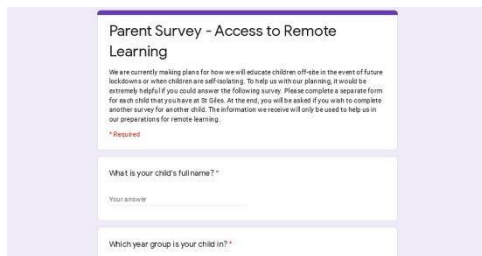
- A second national school closure (which is unlikely)
- A local lockdown which is categorised as Tier 4 (no local lockdown so far has been of this severity)
- Our school (or one key stage) being forced to close due to a child or member of staff testing positive for COVID-19.
- Individual children having to self-isolate, whilst awaiting a test, after they or a family have displayed a possible COVID-19 symptom.

We are planning and preparing so that, when these events do occur, we are ready. As you will be aware from the current news, infection rates are rising, so we all need to be prepared.

In the coming days, we will start to ensure that all children who are self-isolating, but not unwell, have work to do whilst at home. We will not be able to provide work for their first day of isolation as teachers will need notice to prepare the resources.

The longer-term plan is for every child in school to have access to a virtual classroom where teachers can put resources, lessons and activities for children to access at home. For this to work well, all children will need use of a PC, laptop or tablet (not a phone) and access to broadband. As a school, we need to know which children already have access to a device and which don't, so that we can make arrangements for loaning extra devices where needed. Please complete our quick survey by clicking on this link.

<https://forms.gle/bq7tZvbNjwzNLvm6A> It shouldn't take long, but it will mean that we can ensure that all children that need devices have access to one. If you have any difficulties accessing the online survey, please let me know and I can forward you a paper copy.



Parent Survey - Access to Remote Learning

We are currently making plans for how we will educate children off-site in the event of future lockdowns or when children are self-isolating. To help us with our planning, it would be extremely helpful if you could answer the following survey. Please complete a separate form for each child that you have at St Giles. At the end, you will be asked if you wish to complete another survey for another child. The information we receive will only be used to help us in our preparations for remote learning.
forms.gle

Siblings Self-Isolating

Rules and Regulations regarding COVID-19 are incredibly complicated and, at times, inconsistent. One parent contacted me to ask me to clarify the school's position on whether all siblings need to be tested. I've tried to do this below, but it still sounds very complicated. If any of you have any other questions (COVID-19 or other) that you'd like me to answer or clarify, please email me.

Only people (adults or children) who have symptoms should be tested.

If anyone in your household displays one of the 3 possible COVID-19 symptoms, that person should be tested ASAP. The whole household should self-isolate for 14 days (only 10 days for the original person with symptoms). **Other household members should only be tested if they develop one of the 3 symptoms.** However, if all the people **who have been tested** in your household receive a negative test, the whole household can stop self-isolation and the children can return to school immediately.

Washing Hands

All staff and pupils wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Sometimes we replace hand washing by using hand sanitiser instead, as 20 seconds per child for handwashing does end up taking a lot out of our day! Please help us to keep everyone safe at St Giles by ensuring that your child washes their hands before they leave your house each morning.

Midday Supervisor

We are currently advertising for a new Midday Supervisor. If you are interested in applying for the position please contact me ASAP and I will forward you a job description and application form. We are looking for a permanent Midday Supervisor, but may also be able to take on a temporary Midday Supervisor as well.

ParentPay

School dinners and attendance at breakfast club or after school club is recorded in ParentPay on your child's account. Please ensure you have activated your account and that you check the balance regularly. If you have any problems with this please contact Mrs Bednall.

Parking on Starkholmes Road

I know that parking before and after school is incredibly difficult, especially now that our arrival and departure times have changed, but please try not to block peoples' drives when you are parking. We want to keep on good terms with all our neighbours!

Yours faithfully

Mr Ben Twelves
Acting Headteacher