



Trinity St Stephen CE Aided First School

Vansittart Road, Windsor, SL4 5DF

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Headteacher: Mrs Louise Lovegrove

12 June 2020

Dear Parents

School opening continues to be going well. Children in Reception have adapted very quickly to the changes and social distancing for them is becoming part of their daily routine.

I have asked the Reception families to complete a survey this week. I am pleased to say that 93% said that their child was enjoying being back at school. Some of the aspects of school life particularly enjoyed and remarked on were: seeing their friends, making things, chatting to friends, singing and learning and being in the school environment.

The majority responded that their child did not find anything particularly difficult about returning. Most of those that wanted to comment spoke about the difficulty of not being able to play with their friends in the same way and remembering to keep socially distanced. The children are generally finding break times outside more challenging and we are working on how this can be improved.

Most parents said that their child was very tired after the session and that the school offer was right for them at the moment. However, a number of parents also commented that, with work, the timing of the session wasn't easy for them to manage. During the planning of re-opening the school we have been primarily guided by the health and safety of our children and staff, the resources we have available and what we believe to be in the best interest of the child. At the time of re-opening, all the children had been at home for a considerable period of time and have returned to a school that is very different. The difficulty of providing some meaningful 'downtime' means that learning time is intense and exhausting for the children. For these reasons we felt a shorter session would help the children.

In the light of responses to the survey, we appreciate that parents do need to be able to get back to work and this is also in the best interest of the children. We are reviewing our offer and anticipate a gradual increase to the session timings. We hope to send out further information about this shortly.

The survey allowed for further comments and I am pleased to say that we had many positive responses. Here are a few:

"I was very worried about her going to school but you've done a wonderful job in making it fun and safe despite all the changes. She is enjoying it and learning a lot more than she was doing at home. I don't think a full day of school is necessary and I think that would be difficult but an extension of an hour would be fine. Thank you"

"I think you have all done fantastically well given the circumstances, thank you very much".

"Thank you for all your hard work getting the kids back into school!"

One response raised the issue of not having a teaching member of staff in the classroom. I would like to remind parents that I am using all the staffing resources I have available. I am very lucky to be able to draw



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upon an experienced and dedicated group of support staff who are committed to providing the children with the care and learning experience which is suitable for them. All of the pod staff are working under the guidance of the teaching team of Miss Cope and Mrs Doran, who are both early years specialists.

Another suggestion that came up in a few of the responses was the use of social bubbles. At the moment we are continuing to follow the control measures indicated in our risk assessment, previously communicated. The pods continue to remain separate and children within the pods are asked and supported to socially distance. If we receive further government guidance on lessening this control measure we will adapt our practice accordingly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for working tirelessly both at home and in school to provide the best possible experience for children at school and those remaining at home.

If you belong to the Reception Class or fall into the Key Worker or priority groups and you would like your child to return to school, you must let the office know by **9am on Tuesday morning** to join at the start of the following week.

As the term moves, on we are acutely aware that the many events that have been planned to mark the end of Year 4's time at the school are passing us by. We know that many Year 4 families are finding this particularly difficult, especially as there is now little hope of the school returning to any sort of normality before September. Mrs O'Neal is also feeling this frustration and sadness too. We are currently working on putting together an offer to Year 4 families which will enable an opportunity to have some sort of school experience before the end of term. We are committed to not allowing the end of their time and contribution to the school pass without celebration. We also hope that, whenever it will become possible, we can organise a service of reflection for Year 4 and their families. This may well be in the Autumn Term and we will keep you posted.

The school has received information from the Library Service Team about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Please find information attached to this newsletter. Usually Trinity St Stephen children are more likely than most other schools in the borough to commit to this reading project. It would be lovely to continue to see this involvement this year too.

Miss Pugh, as our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Leader, has been continuing to work on sharing information with parents on the changes to this part of the curriculum. She has already consulted with staff and governors on the curriculum and she is now wanting to share this information with parents. Attached with this newsletter is a powerpoint presentation and a FAQ document for parents which will help you understand what we are doing about this important part of the curriculum. Please contact the office if you have any comments or questions as a result of receiving this information. The consultation period will end on **Friday 26 June**.



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The borough are currently consulting on the provision for children with special educational needs. You can find more details via our online consultation portal [here](#). The consultation will run until **Friday 17 July**. Hard copies are available from the school office.

We are now advertising for two new support assistants to join our team. All the information can be found on the website by following the link <https://www.tssfist.co.uk/school-life/job-vacancies> Please contact the office if you would like any help with accessing the application pack.

I hope to see many of you at our two assembly sessions in the week.

Louise Lovegrove

Collective Worship with Reverend Sally	
Monday 15 June	11am
Whole School Assembly with Miss Pugh	
Wednesdays	2pm



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