

Dear Parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children,

I hope you are all keeping well and coping with the very challenging circumstances we are all facing.

At school we have been busy planning the wider opening of School from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 and risk assessing everything, in order to make our environment as safe as possible for our children and staff, given the increase in numbers of children we have been asked to accommodate.

There are so many things to consider and re-organise, the availability of staff being a key factor. Several of our staff will not be allowed to return to work on 1<sup>st</sup> June and we are therefore unable to reopen our **Nursery** for the foreseeable future.

We are planning to extend our opening to children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** but on a trial basis and in a restricted way that we are able to accommodate. We are required to ensure social distancing is observed everywhere for the safety of our children and staff, we have had to increase our cleaning regimes and we have had to create a new staggered, timetable across the school.

This means that school will be a **very different experience** for all of us.

Class sizes will be reduced and desks placed 2 metres apart. New small class groups with a teacher and TA will be created. Children will remain in these groups for their learning and playtimes. This means that at least half of the children in all classes will have a different teacher and be in a strange classroom. Creating these smaller groups means more staff are required and some classes may need to be covered by TAs.

Restricted outside areas for learning and playtimes will be allocated to each new small class group. Children will not mix with children outside their new small group. Staggered play and lunchtimes have been arranged. Children will not be able to use the Trim Trails or play football and outdoor equipment will be limited.

There will be no before, lunchtime or afterschool clubs as social distancing and cleaning cannot safely be managed. We have been advised that there will be no visits for Y6 children from their secondary school teachers or transition day which was planned for July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meetings for parents, school play, masses, swimming or school trips. There will be no assemblies unless these take place within each new, small group class.

Children should not bring anything to school apart from their **water bottle**, which is essential. Children will not be allowed to take books or work home. They will not need PE kits, pencil cases or school bags this term. The only items that children will be allowed to bring into school from home are their water bottle and packed lunch as normal. We have been asked to advise you that children should change out of their school uniform as soon as they get home and this should be washed before they wear it again.

**Regular handwashing** will take place and children will only be able to use their own set of school stationery and resources. Children must only use the toilet area one at a time and access will be supervised. Classroom windows and doors will be opened to ensure good ventilation, therefore please ensure your child brings their sweatshirt to school.

**Free school lunches** will be provided for all Reception and Year 1 pupils and Year 6 children who are in receipt of free school meals. Children in Year 6 who normally pay for a school lunch will continue to do so. However, all school lunches will be the packed lunch option only but with an increased choice. We are unable to serve cooked meals as it will be impossible to ensure social distancing with so many children in the dining room. Tables and chairs would need cleaning several times between eight consecutive groups of children and we do not have enough time or staff to do this. Instead, packed lunches will be brought to each classroom where the children will eat them at their table. Year 6 children who bring a packed lunch from home, should continue to do so.

**PPE** will not be worn by staff unless they are managing children's 'bodily fluids' or attending to a child with possible COVID-19 symptoms. Children should not wear PPE equipment in school.

If anyone has a cough, temperature, loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, or feels unwell at school they must be sent home. They will need to self-isolate for 14 days or until tested negative. A child waiting to be collected will be isolated in a ventilated area. Should a child or adult show symptoms and test positive for **Covid-19** then the whole group that they were in must be sent home and they must all self-isolate for 14 days.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** will be a training day for staff. We need to ensure that all plans are fully in place and understood by everyone who will be maintaining a safe environment for your children.

From **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**, children in Reception Lisbon, Year 1 Lisbon and Year 6 Lisbon may attend school. Parents will be told what time children should arrive as these will be staggered to avoid congestion. They will also be informed which door to leave their child at and where and at what time to arrive to collect their child. Again, these times will be staggered to allow parents to social distance while waiting on the school premises.

Only one parent/carer per family, should bring and collect their children. There will be a one-way system – enter through the main pedestrian gate and exit via the Willow Walk gate.

**Parents** should not gather at the gates, doors or any places on our school site. Parents will not be allowed to enter any part of the school. You will need to phone the school office if you have a query. If your child forgets their water bottle or packed lunch please mark it with their name and leave it in the covered box outside main reception where your child will be escorted to collect it. The office will remain closed to parents for the rest of the term and there will be no face to face contact with any staff.

**Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June** all Reception Lisbon, Year1 Lisbon and Y6 Lisbon classes remain at home and children in Reception Padua, Year1 Padua and Year 6 Padua may attend school. Again, you will receive instructions on what time children should arrive, which door to enter through and where and at what time you should arrive to collect them.

As before, parents are required to follow the new rules for social distancing on our school premises.

This arrangement of **alternate weeks for Lisbon and Padua** will continue until further notice. As soon as we are able to increase this, or accommodate additional Year groups, we will let parents know. We will notify parents of any new information by email, the school

website or on your mobile phones if you registered for Everbridge. Please keep a look out for any future **communications**.

Please continue to involve your child with their home learning during the weeks they are not at school. We will continue to post Weekly Updates and **Home Learning** for all classes on the school website.

The government has currently suspended its enforcement of **Attendance** rules and penalties. No action will be taken against parents who do not wish to take up their offer of a place for their child on the allocated days. Whether or not your child attends school is entirely your decision.

We therefore now ask parents to let us know whether or not they intend to send their child to school during the week allocated to their class. **Please reply** by sending an email to [admin@stanthonys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stanthonys.herts.sch.uk) giving your child's name and class. You cannot do this by reply to this email, you will need to start a new message. Once we have received all the replies we will send detailed arrangements to those who wish to take up a place.

Children of **key workers** and vulnerable children, who have been attending school since lockdown began, should continue as before following your existing, agreed arrangements. If any of these children are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, they should attend with their new small class group only for their allocated weeks and then revert back to their key worker group for the alternate weeks.

Please understand that our plans are subject to change at any time. We are constantly receiving new directives from the government, circumstances for our children and staff in school can alter and of course medical reasons will have an impact on our provision. If at any stage we feel it is unsafe to continue, we will inform you and the school will close.

I can assure you, however, that we have done everything we can to consider all aspects of school life and put plans in place to provide a safe learning environment for your child.

I look forward to the time when we can fully reopen and welcome all our children back to St Anthony's to learn in a way that they will fully enjoy and which meets the needs of all our children.

Yours sincerely,

P. Wilson

Headteacher