

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **Attendance**

Congratulations to our Year 4 children once again with every child present every day last week. The class get to have cuddles with them for another week. Y4 - 100%, Y5 - 98%, Y6 - , 7.5%, Y1 - 96.6%, Y3 & R - 94.3%, Y2 - 94%, N - 93.5%.

### **Sports Relief**

Thank you for your support last Friday. We raised a total of £200! Thank you so much for your support in a very difficult time for everyone.

### **Swimming**

Swimming for Y5 (Wednesday) and Y3 (Friday) is cancelled until further notice.

### **St. Oswald's "Keep Calm and Carry on"**

I would like to thank all the parents who I have spoken to for their calm and sensible attitude during this time. A letter was sent out yesterday to all parents informing them of how we are managing the situation with the information we are given.

We will stay open until we are told otherwise or do not have enough staff to function. Thankfully we are functioning as normal with staff at the moment.

All after school clubs run by school staff will run as normal. Anything run by outside providers we cannot control and will update you accordingly.

So far the only clubs cancelled are Ozzy's and Confirmation classes at Church.

I would recommend parents contact school if they have any queries, the **WHATSAPP groups seem to be causing unnecessary confusion and upset with misinformation and rumours.** This is irresponsible and thoughtless to those who are then upset or confused by it.

### **Class Assembly Year 1**

Unfortunately, all future class assemblies are being postponed until further notice due to advice given on restricting visitors to school.

### **DFE advice re Corona Virus**

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

A child friendly presentation is also attached to the newsletter. This is also available to view on the news page of our website and our twitter @stoswaldscep

### **New guidance for households with symptoms**

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

If you live alone and you have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.

If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of Coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

**The symptoms are:**

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

**Good Neighbour Postcard**

Please see attached the good neighbour postcard. This is for individuals who may want to offer help or need to access it during the current situation.

**Parents should register this month for Summer 30 hour places**

Parents with children who will be aged 3 by the summer term should register for a 30 hours funded place by end of February. HMRC has advised that new parents need to register by 29<sup>th</sup> February to guarantee an eligibility code. Without this code, you won't be able to receive funding for the additional entitlement. Whilst it may still be possible to register for the summer term as late as 31 March, it is advisable to register as early as possible and ahead of the end of February deadline.

**Phone Messages**

If you have a missed call from us, please can you listen to your voice mail first rather than calling back straight away, we are trying to keep lines clear as much as possible.

**Dogs on Playground**

Reminder – even when in your arms, our school policy is no dogs on the premises, can all parents please respect this as we have some children with allergies and others with anxiety and fear of dogs – we always make requests and rules for good reasons.

**Smoking on the premises**

Reminder that smoking, including the use of e-cigs is not permitted anywhere on the school premises, including the playgrounds and pathways.

**Easter Bonnets**

As we do each year we will be holding an Easter Bonnet competition. This year it will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the last day of term as normal. There will be a first and second prize for each class and a participation prize for every child who enters. We do hope you enjoy making the bonnets with your children at home – please do not go to great expense buying a bonnet as the commercial bonnets rarely win the competition! Have fun making your bonnets!

**Christian Values**

Thank you to those of you who joined us for our Year 2 assembly yesterday who were sharing with us their Christian Value of Thankfulness. Never before have we needed reminding of what we should be thankful for, it was a lovely assembly and great to see happy people.

Our Christian Value this week is thankfulness and we will continue with perseverance - carrying on and moving forward no matter how tough life seems at times. *“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”* **Romans 5:3-4**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds ...”*

**Philippians 4: 6-7**

## **Reading**

Reading daily is crucial for children's development and also helps them with their vocabulary. Research has also now shown that ten minutes of reading a day helps mental well-being. As a school, we are raising the profile of reading, investing in new resources and areas around school. On each class webpage is a recommended reading list and also some question stems to help support with reading at home. We want our children to develop a love of reading as we

## **Children's University Half Term Challenge**

Sefton Children's University have created our holiday activities sheet early to circulate to our parents in light of the current situation. All activities are home based and free.

As always children can gain extra credits for completing the holiday challenges and emailing us the evidence.

## **Dates and Events for the Rest of the Year**

Please visit the school website for details <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/events>

### **March 2020**

23<sup>rd</sup>- Assessment week & GANGS workshops for Year 6 in the afternoons (Get Away Nd Get Safe for Year 6)  
Stay n Play in Early Years .2.15-3.15pm **Maths focus** (postponed until further notice)  
Chester Zoo Rangers visit is postponed but will be arranged at a future date.

### **April 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> -PM – Meet the Teacher for Parents. (Postponed until further notice)

3<sup>rd</sup>- 9.45AM Easter Bonnet Competition **2PM finish**

**20<sup>th</sup>- Back to school**

All future events will be risk assessed and information will follow following the Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E. Murtagh  
Headteacher