

**At St. Helen's we learn to LOVE, love to LEARN and aspire to SERVE
so that we become Inspiring Change Makers**

'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Date: 26th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As I am sure you are all aware, the Government has announced that schools will return to full attendance from Monday 8th March. We are extremely pleased that all children will be back in school very soon.

Attendance

Attendance at school will be mandatory for all children and we will resume our usual attendance policy. All children are expected to be in school every day unless they are too unwell to attend or have symptoms of coronavirus, in which case [the Government guidance on self isolation](#) must be followed. If your child or a member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, or if your child has been in direct contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19, please keep them at home and contact the school. All absences should be communicated in the usual manner by phoning the school admin office. If any parents or carers have any concerns about their child's return to school, please contact the school.

Safety measures

Although government statistics show the rate of infection is decreasing, it remains crucial that we work together to mitigate the risk of transmitting coronavirus in our community. I will be giving careful consideration to the system of controls in place at school, in line with the latest government guidance based on scientific evidence, e.g. ventilation, limited movement within the building, bubble groups, enhanced cleaning, and will refresh the whole school risk assessment accordingly by the 8th March. The risk assessment will be made available on the school's website.

Rapid testing

Since January, school staff have had access to twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. This testing means that any asymptomatic staff can be identified and are able to self-isolate. Staff will continue to have access to twice-weekly



School lunches and wraparound care:

In preparation for all children returning to school on 8th March, bookings for lunch and wraparound care can be made via School Money.

Collection:

Please can parents wait in the correct area to collect your child at the end of the day.

Absences:

Please ring every day before 9.15am with accurate details if your child is unwell .

Drop off:

Please only one parent/carer on school grounds in the morning and after school.

Furthermore, please ensure your child arrives on time so they enter school in their bubble:

Yr 5 & Yr 6 - 8.30am

Reception & KS1, Yr 3 & Yr 4 - 8.45am

testing until we are informed otherwise by the Department for Education.

Face coverings

Whereas in secondary schools pupils and staff are being asked to wear face coverings where social distancing is not possible, government guidance states that children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering. Staff in primary schools may wear a face covering, however this is not mandatory. If you have questions about this please contact the school.

Curriculum provision


Naturally the interruption to schooling caused by COVID-19 will have had an impact on all children's education, whether they have been in school or at home during the national lockdown. However, we must not undersell the fabulous job that parents and carers have done in continuing the learning of children at home using the high quality remote learning resources and support provided by teachers. The children in school have also engaged incredibly well with remote learning resources while increasing their skills of independence, collaboration and resourcefulness. All children have demonstrated tremendous fortitude - a strength of character that will stay with them for life.

At St. Helen's we steadfastly refuse to engage with the negative media narrative of a 'lost generation' and treat children as leaking vessels who must be quickly and forcefully refilled by all manner of quick-fix 'catch up' strategies. Please do not misinterpret my meaning, we fully appreciate that children's learning has been interrupted, and once we are re-opened on March 8th, we will take full advantage of children's natural love of learning and will work with gusto to ensure they make swift and impressive academic progress, whilst considering of course their well-being as they transition back into full time school. Rest assured that teachers are adept at supporting a wide range of aptitudes, abilities and needs within a class. Please trust us as qualified and experienced educators to do the very best for your children - we've got this!

Assuring you of my best attention at all times,

Claire Lewis
Headteacher

Please take a minute or two to complete the [parent survey about remote learning](#) if you can. Your views matter to us.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter  @StHelensVA

Social Inclusion Officer

The Social Inclusion Officer, James Creek, can be contacted on 01237 879382.

Dates for your diary

- 8th March** - all children return to school
- 10th March** - celebrating World Book Day in school
- 31st March** - last day of spring term
- 19th April** - first day of summer term

World Book Day is moving.....

Please find attached a book token for World Book Day.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021
IS MOVING

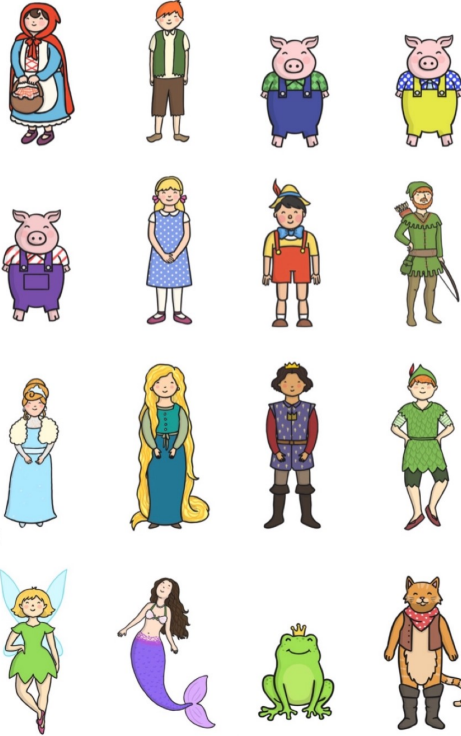
TO WEDNESDAY
10TH MARCH

We're so excited to get everyone back into school that we've decided to delay this year's World Book Day so that we can celebrate together!

This year we thought it would be fun to dress up as characters from traditional tales.

PLUS WE ARE ALSO SETTING THE CHALLENGE OF CREATING THE BEST TAIL FOR OUR TRADITIONAL TALE DAY!

The teachers have planned a full day of fun activities to celebrate this fantastic day.



COVID-19 Symptoms

We ask that everyone is extra vigilant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We ask that any parent, carer or child with any of the following symptoms stays at home and gets a test.

Symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- temperature
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please do not come to the school for a 10-day period from the onset of initial symptoms unless a negative test result is obtained. Children MUST NOT attend school if they or anyone in their household has tested positive in the last 10 days. If your child is displaying symptoms please keep them at home for 10 days while siblings and the rest of the household self-isolates for 10 days.

If a positive case is confirmed, then the 'bubble' including adults may need to self isolate, depending on Public Health advice. St. Helen's CoE School will follow all Public Health guidance to maximise safety.

Wanted!

WE NEED YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLES!

For our Global Goals projects, some of Reception and KS1 are interested in Zero Hunger. As part of their project they want to fix the school greenhouse. To do this we will need approx. 1500 plastic bottles!! Please could you send any clean plastic bottles into school, there will be collection boxes in each classroom.

We want to turn this into this

