

6th November 2020

Dear Parents

We are pleased that the government have taken the decision to keep schools open during this period of National lockdown as we recognise the importance of education to children's development and their mental and physical well-being. We are really keen that as many children as possible are in school each day and, with that in mind, we thought it would be helpful to share the government guidance detailed below in italics.

Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time.

Current research suggests that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools are taking action to reduce risks still further.

Department of Education guidance places a clear responsibility on schools to take swift action when they become aware of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting. With this in mind, **we are appealing to all parents to notify us as soon as possible if their child receives a positive Covid test**, this will enable us to work closely and swiftly with Public-Health England, to minimise the risk of further infection. It is also important that you let us know if anyone in your household has Covid symptoms and if they subsequently test positive.

In line with the guidance published yesterday, we are restricting all visits and visitors to school, other than those that are absolutely necessary. We will be suspending all visits to school for activities such as new admissions and organised performances and we are also suspending all lettings during the period of lockdown. All visitors entering the school buildings will be required to wear face coverings during the period of national lockdown, while inside the school buildings.

Finally, we would like to appeal to all parents to exercise extreme care and diligence, especially during school drop-off and pick-up times. It is vitally important that all parents maintain social distancing at these times and avoid all close personal contact. Many parents are choosing to wear face coverings for these periods, which we greatly appreciate, but please be aware that the wearing of face coverings does not mean social distancing no longer applies. As always, we are grateful for your support and cooperation in these challenging times.

Best Wishes & Stay Safe
Fran Brinicombe

Ruby Class

Ruby, as always, has been a busy and exciting class this week. We have looked at finding 'one more' and 'one less' than a number using number lines and other classroom resources. We have also immersed ourselves into our new text 'The Egg' by M.P Roberston. In the creative area, we have been making some firework pictures using glitter - so much mess, but more importantly, so much fun!

Star Learner

Reception : Isaac is our star learner this week for so many reasons. He has been able to find 'one more' than a number and has used classroom resources to 'prove this'. Isaac has made a conscious effort to improve his listening skills, he has acted on feedback from the adults in Ruby class - he is a great role model for the other children. Isaac and his family regularly use Tapestry to show Miss Bassett what happens at home. Thank you, Isaac for all your efforts this week - keep it up!

Emerald Class

This week Emerald Class found a mysterious horn in the forests of Ignis ! The children believe the horn once belonged to a unicorn and have been 'exploring' and 'investigating' these beautiful creatures during art, science and English activities ! Emerald class have been considering how the unicorns can be protected and have been recording some of their ideas.

Star Learner

Year 1 : Ella has demonstrated fantastic problem solving in maths this week. Well done Ella !

Year 2 : Ted has impressed us with his writing this week. He has completed a wonderful unicorn fact file. It was lovely to see Ted working with such great focused

Sapphire Class

In the corner of his treehouse, the boy sat twisting and turning his hands, sweaty palms and fidgety feet. He was staring at his Grandmother's trinket box that lay on the carved table next to him. Inside this precious box, a pixie, a pesky pixie is causing the boy all sorts of worry. Sapphire team explored the boy's magical treehouse, the behaviours of pixies and created story openers in an attempt to get this pesky pixie off to sleep so the boy can be home in time for tea!

Star Learner

Year 3 : Ruby-Mae has demonstrated good independence this week. She has been resilient and has shown stamina in her writing. Well done and Thank you

Year 4 : Sam has produced a lovely piece of imaginative writing. He has included subordinate clauses and ambitious vocabulary in his story starter. Well done and Thank you.

Diamond Class

We have been asked by Councillor Douglas Darke to undertake a dangerous new mission: to enter the system of caves and caverns inside the Ignis mountain range. The Diamond class children have planned, drafted and written their plans of action for Douglas and have also created labelled diagrams with keys and directional arrows to accompany their work.

Star Learner

Year 5: Alfred has worked extremely hard this week, crafting a beautifully-written plan of action for Douglas Darke's second mission request. His accuracy when using the bus stop method to divide has also been impressive. Well done and thank you Alfred!

Year 6: Riley has worked hard to ensure that he uses commas, dashes and brackets for parenthesis in his mission two plan for Douglas Darke, and he has also included accurate examples of colons and semi-colons within his work too. Well done and thank you Riley!

Our Christian Values

Respect

Forgiveness

Compassion

Friendship

Justice

Trust



Newsletter

Please note we will be STRICTLY adhering to the Guidance below:

If your child is unwell with any symptoms of Covid-19 **DO NOT SEND THEM IN TO SCHOOL** as this poses a risk to their peers, teachers, teaching assistants and our wider school community.

Please continue to be alert for the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or anyone in your household shows any of the three symptoms, everyone in the household must self isolate and not come to school. The person with symptoms should arrange for a test as soon as possible.

NHS Test and Trace - Update from Devon's Public Health Team

• NHS Test and Trace was launched to support the next stage of the pandemic. This is a national function to help trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive and notifies them if they need to self-isolate. The objectives of NHS Test and Trace are to control the rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives.

• It is supported by new Local Authority responsibilities.

If a child or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus then they will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days following the guidance given—the rest of their family will also need to isolate. Siblings must not attend school for 14 days even if they are asymptomatic.

It is important that you inform the school if your child or a member of the household tests positive as we are then required to

Free School Meals (FSM)

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However entitlement will also have other benefits including the reduction in price of some trips and visits. Children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals & benefits (FSM):

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

If you think you may be eligible please apply through the Devon Citizens Portal. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Alternatively you can call the school office 01392 255569 and Jackie or Sara will be happy to guide you through the process.

STAY & PLAY

Please use the following link to apply for Stay and Play after school childcare places.

[Click Here](#)

Please note there will be no Stay and Play sessions on the last days of term.

Friday 18th December

Thursday 31st March

Thursday 22nd July

Admissions Policy 2022-23

The draft admissions policy 2022-2023 for St David's Primary School is available on our school website

<http://www.stdavidsprimary.devon.sch.uk/website/admissions/27369>

The formal consultation period for this policy starts on 1 November 2020 and ends on 31 January 2021.

If you would like to comment on the proposed policy please send your responses to **stdavids@ventrus.org.uk** marking them clearly 'Admissions Policy 2022-23 Consultation' Thank you

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