



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"Together we will give our children  
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

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**Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland**

7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been reflecting on our communication and interaction with our families and the wider community. Increasingly, over the last few years, our communication has been electronic, which we felt was important in terms of the environmental impact of sending lots of paper letters home and also the financial costs to the school in paper and printing. However, we do send paper copies of letters home to those who request it.

Over the course of the last 21 months, we have had to make significant changes to the way we do all sorts of things in school, including how we communicate and interact with our families. As we have been unable in the most part, to invite parents into school over the last 21 months, we are aware that some may feel less connected to what is happening in school, and we plan to make some changes, to try and increase our engagement with families.

To that end, we are working on plans for how we can start to provide opportunities for in person events in school from January 2022. We will need to ask for the whole school community to work together, as we have done so brilliantly throughout the pandemic. For example, we may ask you to wear a face covering, take a lateral flow test before the event or follow other COVID safety measures. We have been very successful in keeping the school open during the pandemic and have not had to send home a class or bubble since January 2021. Keeping the school open and children attending regularly remains our priority as we understand the impact on children and families if bubbles have to close.

As well as opportunities for families to come on site, we know that you value day to day interactions with your child's teacher and being able to find out what is happening in school. We know that you understand the reasons why we have had to have distancing in place and why we have made changes to the way we pass on messages but we also understand the frustrations that these changes may have caused. We are committed to working towards bringing back as many of the day to day interactions as we are safely able to over the coming terms, whilst always prioritising safety for all. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to send an email to your child's teacher, or request a telephone call (see section below on routine communications).

We have had some queries raised with regard to reading and reading records and how they are being used now. We understand that the new system is rather different from the previous one so this will be addressed at the Curriculum Meetings at the start of the Spring Term because there are differences between year groups.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

As things have changed over recent months, we thought it would be helpful to set out how we communicate with families, and how we request that you communicate with us (please see the accompanying document).

We genuinely welcome your feedback; please always make contact directly with us, sooner rather than later, if you aren't sure about something, or are unhappy about something, or have suggestions to make, and of course we do also love to hear the good things too! We can't help or put things right if we don't know that there is a problem! We are committed to working with the whole community to ensure that the children of St John's have a fantastic experience and leave us with the roots to grow and the wings to fly.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Marsland - Headteacher



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