



St Alban's CE Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Alison Adair
Head of school: Mrs Amy Gurner

Morthen Road, Rotherham, S66 1EU. Tel: 01709 542878.

Email: stalbans@sap.dsat.education

Website: wsap.academy

"Educating for life in all its fullness."



National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

10th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and keep healthy. School are missing you all and things are definitely not the same! We understand how difficult it must be for many of you as you continue to juggle work and home learning and we remain concerned for all of our children, who ordinarily would by now be enjoying the usual summer timetables of sport's days, end of year discos and also end of year assessments. Each and every one of our families make up the heart of our school and, even though some children have returned, we will not be complete until you all return safely. Although we need to listen to government advice, we are very hopeful that we will all be together again in September.

In our letter today we want to update you about online learning, access to school and plans for next year.

Online learning:

By now, you should hopefully have access at home to the following to help you support your child's learning:

- Work posted on the school website
- Class Dojo to help you especially with communication between home and school
- My maths, providing you with direct teaching of this term's objectives and an opportunity for teachers to mark answers and assess progress

From Monday 22nd June, we are hoping to trial the use of video conferencing. Our plan is to set up opportunities for children to join a virtual meeting every Monday afternoon with half of their class and their teacher. This will help teachers in particular focus on the direct teaching of English, introducing the week's learning and hopefully providing more explanation and direction. We hope to use Microsoft Teams to do this, which is safer to use compared to other platforms and can be used on your phone, tablet or computer. In the next week, we will be setting your child up with a Microsoft office account – just for access to Teams not enabled as an email address. Your teacher will then send an invite through Class Dojo at the end of next week ready for Monday 22nd June. Please sign up to Class Dojo if you haven't already! We will provide further instructions about how to set up the account with the invite. Those attending school will obviously not need to access the online lesson on a Monday afternoon.

Wider opening of school

Currently and in the next few weeks we are open to critical workers, vulnerable pupils and some Year 6 pupils. You will have received confirmation if your child has a place. However, since the government has now announced that schools will not be opening wider to other year groups, we are very concerned about those children who haven't had the opportunity to attend school at all. In particular, we feel that every child needs a sense of closure, allowing them chance to say goodbye to their class teacher and class friends before the summer holiday. **Because of this, we are asking all families who have accessed school at all this summer (critical workers, vulnerable pupils, Y6) to finish the summer term slightly earlier on Wednesday 15th July rather than Friday 17th July.** Then, on Thursday 16th July and Friday 17th July, ***we will be inviting all remaining children to return for one day to***

spend the day with their teacher and class. We know that this may be a difficult ask for those critical workers who rely on provision, but we would like to appeal to you all to work with us to enable this to happen, for the benefit of all our children's mental health and wellbeing. We believe it is crucial to offer this opportunity to all so they can end the year on a happy note. Further details will be sent out soon to let you know which day your child can return (Thursday 16th or Friday 17th July). We do respectfully ask that you do not send any thank you cards or presents into teachers at the end of this year as some of you often do, as, according to government safety guidance, we cannot bring or take items between school and home. Thank you!

Staffing and classes next year

It is with great sadness that we are announcing that Mrs Tune will be retiring this summer after many, many years as our Business Manager. She will be missed so much! Many of you will have known her for a long time, especially if you have children who have been through school or even if you came here yourself. I'm sure all of you would like to join us in thanking Mrs Tune for being so wonderful, welcoming and organised over the years!

Below are the class teachers for next year:

FS1 (nursery) -	Mrs North
FS2 (Reception)-	Mrs Taha
Year 1 -	Mrs Whyman
Year 2-	Mrs Teale
Year 3 -	Miss Widdop
Year 4 -	Mr Frelich
Year 5 -	Mrs Staniforth
Year 6-	Mrs Cooper

Mr Dawson will be teaching at Flanderwell Primary School, our partner school, from September. We wish him well! Mrs Cooper joins us as a teacher from Flanderwell Primary School. She is an outstanding teacher, very experienced and the current Y6 teacher there. We are very blessed to have her joining our team! Mrs Cooper will also be the SENDCO (special needs coordinator) for our school.

We do hope that this letter has explained some of the changes we are making and given you hope that eventually we will have some sort of normality! As always, please continue to contact us if you have further questions either through Class Dojo or through the school email.

All the best,

Alison Adair
Executive Headteacher

Amy Gurner
Head of School