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The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? **Psalms 27**

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Dear Parents and Carers

Next week we hope to share our end of term and transition plans with you. In the current situation plans may change but we want to give you as much notice as possible! We are particularly thinking about those children who are not in school at the moment and want to give them an opportunity to come into school whilst still maintaining the hierarchy of protective measures that still apply. We very much hope that we will be able to welcome back all children in September – subject to government guidance.

Every blessing

Mr Etherton, Mr Lincoln and team

## 1. COMMUNICATION

- **Emails:** please use [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk) to contact the school with queries. Email remains our main form of communication and we continue to receive a huge amount – we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.
- **Phone:** the school phone line is now open between 8.30am and 3.30pm.
- **Letters sent home this week:** Click on the link to see past letters <http://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Sent+Home&pid=56>
  - Rainbow Class (email) – 17<sup>th</sup> June

2. **STAFFING NEWS:** It is with mixed feelings that we are sharing the news that Mrs Jo Nisbet, our Home School Link Worker, will be leaving us at the end of the summer term. We will all miss Mrs Nisbet and are incredibly grateful for all the support and help she has given to so many families in the school. Mrs Nisbet is of course a very hard act to follow, however we are pleased to announce that we have recruited Mrs Sarah Carson as our new Home School Link Worker. We are delighted Sarah will be joining us as she brings lots of experience working with vulnerable children and families in her roles as a Family Support Worker for West Sussex.

## 3. WORSHIP & ETHOS

- **Assemblies:** Thank you Lime Oysters for a fabulous bubble Awesome Assembly! Y6 Pink Corals invite you to join them for their Awesome Assembly next Thursday (see advert at end of bulletin!)
- **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special:** Did you miss it? See <https://youtu.be/5LyhpSvyEkk>

4. **TERM DATES:** the West Sussex Term Dates for 2020-21 and 2021-22 are available on the West Sussex website: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-term-dates/> INSET Days, other closure days as a result of COVID and the exact first day of the autumn term will be confirmed shortly.

Please note that following the recent lockdown, the school will be taking a very tough line on term time absence. Absolutely no holidays should be booked during term time!

## 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **Good news:** Asha, Mr Etherton's dog who has starred in many Awesome Assemblies, hopes to visit the school next week. Normally it is ok to stroke her but due to current hygiene requirements, this is not possible at the moment. Please note that we only allow dogs onto the premises if we have checked insurance documents / health records and undertaken the relevant risk assessments. Asha is a qualified medical assistant dog with 'Hypo Hounds' and registered with 'Canine Concern' with whom she regularly visited care homes (or did prior to the lockdown).
- **It's still 2m:** Please remember to keep a good distance from others both on the pavement outside and around the school grounds.
- **No zooming around on the playground:** Please do not allow children to ride or scoot on the school playground. Whilst we want to encourage sustainable travel, we don't allow zooming on the playground. Please push/carry your bikes and scooters.
- **Prompt drop-off/pick-up:** Please drop-off/pick-up promptly and immediately leave the premises to avoid congestion and overlapping other class drop-off/pick-up times.
- **Picnic tables:** Please don't sit down on our picnic tables (unless you really need to!) as it potentially increases the risk of infection.

- **Buckingham Park:** we have been made aware that some children have been climbing the 'containers' in Buckingham Park. These are quite high and it is dangerous – please make sure your children are not climbing these.

6. **RAINBOW CLASSES – childcare for Key Worker and Vulnerable children:** following recent high demand from key workers, our year group bubbles in Years 2-5 are now almost fully booked and we have virtually no more capacity. As previously emailed to parents and carers, whatever year group your child is in, if you are a critical front line worker and it is essential that you have childcare please email [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk) **by 10am Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. We cannot take any more booking after this date. The school cannot guarantee places in our Rainbow Classes (including LF, YR, Y1 and Y6 on Wednesday afternoons and LF on Thursdays) and we may still have to withdraw or reallocate places. If you have already made bookings, you do not need to re-confirm these. Many thanks for your patience and understanding – particularly for those parents where we have already had to withdraw or change childcare sessions.

**Absence from Rainbow Class:** if your child is unable to attend Rainbow Class on any day please report their absence as you would normally.

7. **OCTOPUS CLUB, STARFISH CLUB, LITTLE OCTOPUS CLUB & LITTLE STARFISH CLUB for Key worker & Vulnerable children only:** these clubs are only available for key worker and vulnerable children until further notice. Bookings can be made via the offers menu in your sQuid account. There are limited spaces which are booked on a first come first served basis. Please note that the school reserves the right to cancel bookings if we need to reprioritise for critical workers as we cannot exceed our capacity. Offer are now available for you to book up to the end of term.

**PICKING UP & DROPPING OFF:** please do not use the staff car park when dropping off at Octopus Club or picking up from Starfish Club.

8. **CHILDREN IN YEARS 2-5 – Summer Term Plans:** Earlier this week the government published new guidance permitting schools to welcome back more children before the summer holidays, where there is capacity and provided the current guidance on protective measures can be followed. Children must not be in a group of more than 15 and priority must still be given to vulnerable children, children of key workers and years R, 1 & 6.

Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to increase our provision to meet demand for vulnerable children and children of key workers, let alone year groups 2-5. Every classroom, including the Art Room and Music Room, is being used for a 'bubble' of children. In addition, we do not have any spare staff capacity to teach or supervise additional children. Government guidance is very clear that, "There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so."

We appreciate that this is very disappointing for many parents and carers (and children!) who would love a return to school – as indeed staff would! However, safety comes first and we do have to stick to government guidelines and our own risk assessments.

The good news is that we do hope to organise, as permitted by government guidance, some face to face contact with children who are not currently in school. We would love such children to be able to meet their current teacher as well as undertake some transition activities with their new teacher. This will have to be in groups of no more than 15 at a time and based on the school field. Once we have completed our risk assessments and gained governor approval, we will share our plans with you.

9. **FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS**

This week we have had the welcome news that free school meal vouchers will continue to be paid to eligible families over the summer holidays and we will provide more information about this shortly. Vouchers were delivered during the Easter holiday but not during the May half term, therefore this week two sets of vouchers will be delivered, one for all eligible children for the half term week and one for those eligible children who have not yet fully returned to school for week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Please do redeem your vouchers promptly as they expire after a month, the egift cards have a much longer expiry period.

10. **ST NIC'S DAYS:** Mr Davies is hoping to create a special lockdown issue of our pupil-written school newspaper, St Nic's Days, however he has only received a few articles – we need more in order for there to be a newspaper!! Articles could be about skills, activities, games and learning that has taken place during the lockdown – advice, interviews, book/film/game reviews, instructions/recipes or world news – be creative! If your child would like to write an article for the paper, please send it to [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk) FAO Mr Davies by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Please note, we will publish the paper on the school website so keep personal details vague and make it clear whether you would like your child's article credited with their first name and class or kept anonymous. Mr Davies will then pick a range of different articles for the paper from the submissions.

- 11. MISSING SPORTS KIT:** If your child has represented the school in any event this year, can you please search at home for any missing kit. We have the following missing: 2 yellow football shirts (nos 6 and 15); 2 Nike blue football shorts (numbered 8 and 11 on the label) and 8 blue and 8 red Nike socks. We would dearly like to have them all back so that next year's teams can have the benefit of looking good when representing our school. If you find any, please drop them into the office or keep them safe until you next come in. Thank you, Mr Butler.
- 12. DALESDOWN REFUND:** a cheque for the refund for the Y6 Dalesdown Residential will be sent home in the next few weeks.
- 13. SWIMMING FOR CURRENT YEAR 3:** we will carry forward the payment made on sQuid for this term's swimming at Lancing College to the spring term 2021 when year 4 (current Y3) will swim next.
- 14. UNIFORM:** please remember your child should be wearing the correct school uniform. The uniform policy can be found on the website under Parents & Carers > Uniform or click on the link: <http://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=21>
- 15. PTA – SECOND HAND UNIFORM:** the PTA is pleased to be opening our second hand uniform shop in the Palace. There will be good quality second hand items for sale on Tuesdays and Fridays at pick up and drop off, starting next week.
- There will be some hand sanitiser on the door as you come in. Please make sure you use this before you enter.
  - The second hand clothes have already been washed but we advise that you wash them at home before wearing them as an extra precaution.
  - We will be asking people to maintain their social distance and therefore only allowing 2 people at a time in the palace. If there are already 2 people in the palace, you will need to wait outside: 1 in, one out.
  - Please make sure you bring your own shopping bag and some change with you as we will be asking you to put the correct money into a pot, to avoid us needing to handle money and give change. General uniform items are £1, Fleece, shoes and book bags £2, Coats £3
  - There will be a box outside for unwanted uniform donations. Please make sure they are in good condition, washed, names removed and left in the box inside a carrier bag. Please **DO NOT** take uniform donations into the school office as they will not accept them.
- We look forward to seeing you!

- 16. CHILDREN IN NEED – DESIGN-A-DUCK:** the annual duck race is back and this year we want you and your class to help complete our pun-tastic duck line-up. We're asking duck fans across the UK to grab their crayons and design a duck, with one lucky ducky featuring in our big race at the end of the year. Everything you need to take part in is on our site, simply download our handy duck template and get quacking! [BBC Children in Need - Design a Duck](http://www.bbc.com/children-in-need/design-a-duck)



**17. USEFUL HOME LEARNING LINKS AND RESOURCES – NEW ADDITIONS**

- [Useful Home Learning Links and Resources](#) (click on link) or go to Pupils>Useful home learning links & resources.

- 18. ART COMPETITION WINNERS:** congratulations to Joshua and Samuel who were the winners of the Hidden Gallery Kids Art Competition in the 0-8yrs category. Their works were inspired by Picasso and his cubism. They are fabulous pieces of art – well done boys!



You have been invited to  
join our Awesome Assembly to celebrate

# MR BADGER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!

*Where:* Awesome Assembly  
- link will be sent  
on Thursday

*When:* 25/06/20





**Secure Attachments – Robust Learners- Building Futures**

## **Your Space Therapies are pleased to present an online Therapeutic Parenting Course.**

We are a counselling and play therapy service that work holistically with schools, parents and professionals supporting vulnerable children. We help children and their communities to have good mental health, resilience to learn and be the best they can be.

### **Boosting the Bond**



*For the BEST relationship with your child*

**Thursday 9th July, 6-8pm**

*Ticket price: £20*

Training online via Zoom (details to follow on booking)

**To book your place, please email:  
[bookings@yourspacetherapies.org](mailto:bookings@yourspacetherapies.org)**

Your Space Therapies are offering a unique and down-to-earth course for parents and carers providing practical ways to have the best relationship with their children. The course will offer an overview of children's emotional brain development and offers practical strategies and therapy games to develop strong emotional bonds and help parents therapeutically manage children's anxiety or challenging behaviours. Strategies will be tailored to think about particular responses that are needed during COVID-19 and lockdown.

*93% of parents or carers who have attended this course rated in 'Excellent'*

**About the trainer:** Emma Connor is a Child Psychotherapist, MA, UKCP, Director, Consultant and Trainer for Your Space Therapies. Emma is a senior lecturer at the Institute for Arts and Therapy in Education as well as working in various schools providing therapy for children and therapeutic support for families.

**For more information regarding Your Space Therapies counselling services, consultancy and training please visit: [www.yourspacetherapies.org](http://www.yourspacetherapies.org)**