
"Encourage one another, be of one mind and live in peace." 2 Corinthians 13:11

1. COMMUNICATION

- **Website:** please check the website for answers to any queries before contacting the office. Information about the school day, attendance & absence, medical issues, uniform, food & drink can be found under the Parents & Carers tab. Bulletins and letters can be found under Parents & Carers > News & Events
- **Emails:** please use office@stnm.org.uk to contact the school with queries. Email remains our main form of communication and we receive a huge amount – we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.
- **School Office:** parents and carers should **not** enter the foyer unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. Please refer to the school website for information or email / phone if you have any queries 01273 454470. The office will be manned to respond to emails and telephone queries from 8am – 4.30pm.
- **Calendar:** term dates, upcoming events etc. This can be filtered by year group to help you find dates relevant to you. Follow the link for instructions on how to [use](#) or [subscribe](#) to the calendar.
- **New dates/events added:**
 - ❖ Tuesday 15th September – Y1 & Y4 – visit from Jamie Crawford, Storyteller
 - ❖ Tuesday 8th December – YR-Y6 – Flu Vaccinations
- **Letters / Emails 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>
 - ❖ Y1 & Y4 – visit from Jamie Crawford, Storyteller, 15th September
 - ❖ YR6 Bikeability

2. WORSHIP & ETHOS

- **Geese!** Please do ask the children about our Geese and the theme for this half term. We would love for the children to come up with names for our three Geese (names that go together). If the children would like to name the Geese please get them to share the names with their class teacher(s) and we will announce the winner in next week's bulletin.
- **Awesome Assemblies:** Mr Badger hopes to do one Awesome Assembly a week, in addition to some of his new friends (more news on these in following weeks!) We will no longer text links to our assemblies so do 'subscribe to Awesome Assemblies' and allow notifications if you want to watch them at home.



3. HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We realise the start of term (especially this term!) can be a challenge and it can be difficult to keep track of everything so here are some tips to help you:

- CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ANSWERS TO ANY QUERIES!
- Check the book bag daily.
- Take action straightaway: you can sign up for online payments to make it easier, any slips should be completed and returned to school the next day – this reduces the likelihood of losing letters or forgetting about them.
- Keep the letter in a safe place – you could set up a file just for school letters and information to keep in a safe but handy place so you can check things when you need to.
- Read this weekly bulletin promptly – make a note of any upcoming events on your calendar.
- Check the calendar (website) & add relevant dates to your calendar or highlight them and stick them on the fridge!

4. FOOD & DRINK

- **Stay hydrated:** the water fountains are currently turned off. Every child must bring a named water bottle to school every day. Please only put water in the bottle. Children can top it up during the day if required. If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school they should also bring a small drink in their lunchbox.
- **Fruit for Snack Time:** many thanks to all parents who provided snacks for break times during lockdown. Now that the school is fully open, the Government Fruit and Vegetable Scheme is up and running again for children in

EYFS/KS1 so you no longer need to do this. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring in a break time snack as usual but please ensure this is either fruit or vegetable, in line with our Healthy School status.

- **Free School Milk:** following a £1m reduction in funding this year Schools Forum have had to reluctantly make the decision to remove funding for break time milk for primary children in receipt of free school meals from the beginning of this new academic year, therefore free milk at break times will no longer be provided to any children of 5 and above. This does not affect the provision of free milk for the under 5's.'

5. GOING HOME ARRANGEMENTS office@stnm.org.uk

- **Ad hoc picking up arrangements:** if your child is being picked up by someone other than the usual contact, please email the office with details: child's name, class, who is picking up, relationship to child.
- **Regular travelling home arrangements:** if your child is regularly picked up by someone else, Grandma picks up every Thursday, please email the office with the following details: child's name, class, full name of adult picking up, their relationship to your child, and on what days they are picking up. This arrangement will then be in place until you inform us otherwise.
- **Older children walking home on their own:** some older children have permission to walk home on their own. If you would like your child to walk home on their own, please email the office giving your permission and state which days they are allowed to do so.

6. UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see the children returning to school looking so smart in their uniforms. During lockdown we relaxed our policy slightly as it was difficult to obtain uniform but we have now returned to the usual expectations.

- Please ensure your child is wearing proper closed school shoes rather than trainers.
- All long hair must be tied back in school colours.
- We have noticed that some children have returned with newly pierced ears. Please make sure your child can independently remove their earrings for PE lessons and that all earrings are studs for health and safety reasons.
- Skirts should be navy blue, not grey.

Please let the school know via email office@stnm.org.uk if there is any reason why you are unable to provide the correct uniform or if you need advice or support. Many thanks for working together with us to make our school smart! Please see the website for our Uniform policy (Parents & Carers > Uniform) or click this link: [Uniform Policy](#)

7. BOOK BAGS – NO backpacks until Year 4

We have noticed that some children in KS1 and Y3 are bringing in large backpacks to school. Children in these year groups should be using book bags – they can then bring their items into the classroom for easy access and keep them in the drawers we have for this purpose. We do not have enough space on the pegs in the corridors for backpacks and coats during the colder months and we need to keep floors clear for safety reasons and cleaning, which is particularly important during the pandemic. Once the children reach Y4, there is adequate space for backpacks (this is in the school policy). The only exception is if a child is attending an after school club which requires them to carry additional equipment. We appreciate it may be disappointing for the children but it is something to look forward to as they move up the school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

8. OCTOPUS AND STARFISH CLUBS

- We are delighted that the Octopus and Starfish Clubs have got off to a great start and are working really well. We have had to introduce tighter restrictions to ensure we can continue to provide these clubs safely and in line with government guidelines and we are grateful to you for booking your sessions early!
- The deadline for booking the first half of the autumn term has now passed, as notified in previous bulletins (10th & 17th July and 4th Sept). We will notify you in the bulletin when sessions for the second half will be going on sale.
- Once bookings are made, four weeks' notice must be given for cancellation.

9. **SCHOOL CENSUS DAY, Thursday 1st October:** it is vital that we secure the full level of funding to which we are entitled for Free School Meals. The government provides funding for each child that has a free school meal on the two census dates, 1st October and 21st January. If your child is entitled to a free school meal (including all children in YR, 1 and 2) they will be offered a hot meal on these dates, even if they do not normally have a hot meal; so they do not need to bring in a packed lunch on this day. The menu is at the end of this bulletin. You do not need to take further action unless your child has a dietary requirement that Chartwells are not aware of – please read the [West Sussex Special Diet Process](#) which includes a form to return to Chartwells.

10. HEALTH & SAFETY

- **Keep your distance!** Please be very mindful about keeping your 2m distance from other parents/carers, children and staff whilst on school property and whilst walking to and from school. This not only reduces the risk of infection but also reduces the number of people who will be required to self-isolate if they have been in 'close contact' with someone who has been on site and subsequently develops symptoms/confirmed case of coronavirus.
- **Leave promptly and do not linger!** To help with social distancing, compliance with coronavirus guidelines and congestion, please do not congregate on the playground and chat in groups – drop off/pick up your child and leave the playground immediately via the gate near the main office. Thank you.
- **Crossing the road:** please ensure you use the patrol crossing at the top of Eastern Avenue when crossing the road. Children should also get off scooters and bikes and walk across the road.
- **Infrared Thermometers:** we now have infrared thermometers in school. If a child is unwell we will take their temperature. If it is 38 degrees centigrade or above we will call the parent/carer to come and collect the child. They will then need to be tested for coronavirus.
- **Inhalers/Medicines:** if your child needs to have an inhaler or medicine kept in school can you please ensure it is taken into their class and given to their class teacher. A 'Medicine in school' or 'Asthma' form will need to be completed for any new medicines or inhalers. Please call the office regarding this.
- **Getting tested:** The fastest way to get a test result is to go to a testing site. You will need a pre-booked appointment or you will not be given a test. You can also order home test kits to be sent directly to you. To book an appointment or order a home kit please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

II. ONLINE SAFETY

- This week there was a disturbing story in the press of a graphic TikTok video spreading across social media platforms. TikTok recommends videos and content from unknown sources and sadly there will be TikTok users who will have unwittingly seen this very upsetting footage. Tik Tok has an official age rating of 13 years+. We strongly recommend parents/carers monitor which social media platforms your child is accessing to help to protect them from upsetting online content. The NSPCC offers comprehensive, clear information on social media, apps and games sites including age ratings which we think you will find very helpful. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

£2.35

Menu

Thursday 1st October

Choose a main...

**Beef Burger in a Bun
or
Quorn Nuggets & Chips**

On the side...

**Baked Beans or Salad
Tomato Ketchup**

For dessert...

**Jammy Jack
(flapjack)**

For drink...

**Blackcurrant Squash, Milk
or Water**



Please place orders by Sunday 20th September at www.mealselector.co.uk, where further details are displayed.

For more information on special diets please contact
westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk.

Special diet requests must be made no later than Wednesday 16th September .





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*



Course dates:

Thursday 9th July 2020, 6-8pm

Tuesday 3rd November 2020, 6-8pm

Tuesday 2nd February 2021, 6-8pm

Training online via Zoom (details to follow on booking)

Ticket price: £20

**To book your place, please email:
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 theraplay 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



SewCrafty

SewCrafty sewing & craft club
for children in Y3-6



SewCrafty has moved online!

When: Mondays or Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15pm

Cost: £7 weekly, half-termly blocks

Who: For children in Y3-Y6

Contact: Yo Clay at yosewcrafty@gmail.com m. 07825 381160



Weekly sessions after school

Small friendly classes (places limited)

Resources delivered to your door

Learn how to sew, create unique projects and have lots of fun!

Hand-sewing (machine sewing can be incorporated if you have a machine and know how to use it!)



After school club, holiday workshops, parties, 1:1 lessons

Check out @yosewcrafty



Neither the Governors nor West Sussex County Council support or recommend the advice, products or services offered nor the organisations offering them. Individuals should satisfy themselves on the suitability of any of the advice, products or services and on the nature and standing of these organisations (or any mentioned in this bulletin or any other publication).