

God of all strength,
We don't always have the capacity to keep going,
Or the ability to see a way through,
But we choose to trust in you.
Please grant us perseverance.

Dear Parents and Carers

It's not often we do this, but we would like to pay tribute to the staff of St Nic's.

We have just had two days of staff training, planning and preparing as we move towards the gradual re-opening of the school. There is a huge amount to do, whilst keeping Rainbow Club and home-learning going and meeting a whole new regime of 'health and safety and a completely different way of working. All the staff have worked incredibly hard and have shown great willingness to take on new roles and differently responsibilities. It should be noted that many staff are working many more hours than they are required to. Many staff don't have full-time or 52 week contracts yet are working through their unpaid holiday or days off to keep the school going and to prepare for re-opening. We commend them to you.

Later today we are sending out our draft plans for re-opening the school. Obviously all this could change, as it has already. We have had to push our own plans back slightly in order to ensure that we can completed all the preparations and get all the new systems in place.

The key actions for you to do are:

- a) Read through the information we send you later today and over the coming days.
- b) Send in any questions by Thursday 28th May to office@stnm.org.uk
- c) Read the FAQs and Answers that we will send you w/b Monday 1st June
- d) For those with children in Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery – start to prepare your child(ren) for returning to school, using the information we send you.
- e) For those whose children are eligible to attend Rainbow Club/Classes, continue to book them in (see below)

If and when you come into school:

- Remember to maintain 2m from others. Please don't congregate with others and leave as soon as you can.
- Do not enter the building (including foyer / school office) unless by prior arrangement – ring first.
- Follow the new one way systems (particularly either side of the carpark hedge)

Every blessing

Mr Etherton, Mr Lincoln and team

1. COMMUNICATION

- **Keep in touch:** do keep in touch with the school and share significant highs and lows that you and your family may be facing. We may be able to help, point you in the direction of help or at least 'walk' with you in our thoughts and prayers. Email office@stnm.org.uk
- **Emails:** please use the office@stnm.org.uk to contact the school with any queries. Email is currently our main form of communication so we are receiving a huge amount – we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible
- **Phone:** the school phone line will reopen between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm from Monday 1st June.
- **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>
 - Letter to Children – 22nd May

2. WORSHIP & ETHOS:

- **Superheroes:** There will not be any Awesome Assemblies over the half term 'break' – so do take this opportunity to catch up on any you may have missed!
- **Letter to children:** The letter this week includes a 'Mr Badger' colouring in sheet!

3. RAINBOW CLUB – childcare until Friday 29th May

- **Bookings for the Rainbow Club for Keyworker & Vulnerable children:** this is available on sQuid via Offers. Please note that to ensure we can plan effectively we have altered the booking deadline. **YOU MUST**

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS BOOKED IN BY 5.00pm 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DAY OR WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THEM. We have very strict guidelines on how we operate the Rainbow Club and staffing is arranged according to the bookings. Therefore, to avoid disappointment and confusion please book sessions in good time. If you have any queries please email office@stnm.org.uk

- **Opening dates:** we do not intend to run Rainbow Club on Monday 25th May, Spring Bank Holiday but will run it during the half term 'break' from Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th.

4. **RAINBOW CLASS starting Monday 1st June**

- **Bookings for the Rainbow Class week commencing 1st June are available on sQuid Offers – FOR KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN ONLY:**

- If your child is in Years 2-5 **you must** book your child into Rainbow Class until further notice.
- If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or year 6, **you must continue** to book your child into Rainbow Class because we are not 100% certain that the school will be fully open for these year groups at this stage. Once school is open you must continue to book your child into Rainbow Class on Wednesday afternoons for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and on Thursdays for Nursery children if you require childcare on these days.
- **YOU MUST MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS BOOKED IN BY 5pm 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DAY OR WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THEM.**

5. **OCTOPUS CLUB & STARFISH CLUB for Keyworker & Vulnerable children only:** These clubs will only be available for Keyworker and Vulnerable children until further notice as we cannot provide this service for multiple 'bubbles' (groups of children) and maintain sufficient social distancing. Parents can now make bookings for these clubs for the 2nd half of the summer term. The clubs can be found under the **offers** menu in your sQuid account. Please only book your child into these clubs if they are due to attend Rainbow Class.

LITTLE OCTOPUS CLUB & LITTLE STARFISH CLUB: for Keyworker & Vulnerable children only:

These clubs will only be available for Keyworker and Vulnerable children until further notice as we cannot provide this service for multiple 'bubbles' (or groups of children). Parents will be able to make bookings for these clubs for the 2nd half of the summer term. The clubs can be found under the **offers** menu in your sQuid account. Please only book your child into these clubs if they are due to attend Rainbow Class. NOTE: There will be limited capacity on Wednesdays – please see our re-opening plans for more information.

6. **RETURNING STAFF:** From 1st June, we are very pleased to share that Mrs Stenning will be returning to the school after her maternity leave. Mrs Wren also returned in May and it is wonderful to have them both back working with our children.

7. **HOME LEARNING OVER HALF-TERM**

As we approach half term, we felt that it would be good to stick to our usual guidelines of giving children a break from their learning and not set any specific activities for next week. We hope that this will also be welcome for parents and carers who are trying to juggle teaching, child-care, home working and busy family life during lockdown! We hope this gives everyone an opportunity to rest and refresh during the holiday. If children are keen to continue with activities then please feel free to use the BBC Bitesize clips or peruse some of the links on the Home Learning section of our website.

St Nic's Days: Mr Davies is hoping to create a special lockdown issue of our pupil-written school newspaper, St Nic's Days. This is usually only open to those in years 5 and 6, but for this issue Mr Davies is accepting articles from any children in the school! 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 FAO Mr Davies by Friday 5th June. Please note, we intend to publish the paper on the school website so please 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.

8. **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.
- **Times tables practise:** <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/info/times-table-tester>
- **A Stitch in our Time:** community project to create a large quilt made up of individual squares of fabric. Go to the website Pupils > Useful home learning links & resources > Art & Design, French & Music or [click here for information and instructions](#)

Message from Joe Wicks

Hi everyone,

I know that things have been really difficult for schools and teachers recently as you try to navigate your role of keeping children across the UK learning, by supporting their parents with home schooling. I also know, as my role as BBC Children in Need's Schools Ambassador, that children are finding things really difficult. A lot of children are missing out on the shared experience that schools bring and also really missing the social side of seeing their friends.

So I wanted to get in touch to say a massive thank-you for all the amazing work you're doing to keep children across the UK entertained, happy and learning. You're doing an incredible job.

Whether you're still in school or staying at home, I hope you've been taking advantage of the fantastic resources from Twinkl's [Home Learning Hub](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#). They're perfect for keeping children learning with loads of resources and activities.

I hope you and all the students you support have been joining me for my morning [PE lessons](#) to get active, feel energised and start the day off positively.

We know that some children may be struggling with their mental health/wellbeing being impacted by feelings of unease and anxiety. We also know that it's an incredibly stressful time for parents, who are trying to support their children through this. So I wanted to share [Dr Radha's](#) really useful, top tips to help parents and children cope better in these strange and uncertain times.

I'm really looking forward to the autumn, when I really hope to be able to see you as part of BBC Children in Need's Appeal Week!

Thanks again for everything you're doing - you're all amazing!

Lots of Love

Joe

Thrive 365 #17

Did you know?

Fixed mindset - a belief that people are born with a fixed amount of a certain quality (e.g. intelligence) and that the amount is fixed and unchanging.

Growth mindset - a belief that with effort, anyone can improve and get better at things.

People with fixed mindsets who believe they are 'able' can have higher levels of anxiety because they want to avoid making mistakes. People with fixed mindsets who believe they are 'not able' might avoid tasks for fear of 'looking stupid' or lack motivation to try.

What can you try?

1. Listen to the things you say

Notice your thoughts. People with a fixed mindset often think things like: 'I'm no good at this', 'some people are just naturally talented' or 'it's too hard'. Try to switch these to 'growth mindset' thoughts: 'I need more practise at this', 'talent exists but effort is also important', 'I'll get better at this'.

2. Consider how you view others

Think about a person you respect and look up to. Consider if that person is 'perfect'. Have they made mistakes? Have they gotten things wrong sometimes? Has that ever made you respect them less?

3. Reframe your 'failures'

Before inventing the lightbulb, Thomas Edison famously said 'I have not failed, I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work'. It is effort and persistence that counts.