



# St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Usually, on this day every year I would be shooting off as soon as school finishes to go skiing with my family but sadly not this year. My annual exercise stopped, meaning I'm left to loaf on the sofa and continue to improve my weight gain! Don't you just love lockdown?

I am extremely proud of my staff and how they have managed this half term with all that has been thrown at them. I constantly read comments berating schools that they are closed, staff are not working very hard or that they have not provided much for the children to help them learn. If they could see what I see daily. Staff in everyday at the usual time, planning and preparing work for remote learning, marking work to return to pupils, engaging in live lessons, making live calls and phone calls to various groups and individuals to help with children's well-being and pastoral care. We appreciate that it has not been easy for families at home, but staff have performed magnificently during these challenges and I cannot commend them enough. The children have also been excellent in their engagement and contribution. We appreciate how difficult it has been for you, as parents, and for the children as primary learning is about face to face interaction. But we have been presented with these difficulties due to the pandemic and the St Lawrence school and community have risen to the challenge. So, we thank you too.

As I have mentioned before we want to thank all of you who have written in to let us know of your appreciation. The staff room table has never been so fully laden with goodies! Having a birthday on Valentine's Day, which is nearly always in the holiday, I usually buy staff cakes on the last day of this half term. I didn't have to bother today...(don't worry staff, I will get them for the first day back!). Your generosity is greatly received.

As you know there is set to be an announcement just after half term with a roadmap back to schools opening up for all pupils. We know this won't be before the 8<sup>th</sup> March but as soon as dates are confirmed we will be preparing for pupils to return. I am confident that we will be able to return to 'normal' on the date we are given and, obviously, we are looking forward to seeing all the children once again.

Whilst talking about the children's return, we are making a few changes for the Key Worker/Vulnerable children for after half term. From the first day back (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February) we require all children coming to school to be in full winter school uniform. We are beginning to find that some children who are casually dressed are showing a casual attitude towards their work. Thus, in preparation for full return, we want all children coming in to be appropriately dressed. We have also noticed that many children are being sent in early and waiting in the driveway. This is not safe as the school does not accept responsibility for the children until they have been received into the school. From the first day back, we require all year 3 and 4 children to be brought into the playground by an adult (via the cycle rack path) and then the adult can leave via the big wooden gates. Year 5 and 6 children who have permission to come to school alone can come into the playground and will then be directed to their designated area in school. We have also noticed that some children have become lapse in their arrival times. We are providing a full day's work and staff have places they need to be. We cannot have children arriving late and having to catch up on a lesson that has already started. Please arrive on time and a gentle reminder that we expect ALL ADULTS to wear a face covering whilst on school premises. If we can just stick to the rules through this last little bit, there is light at the end of the tunnel.



Headteacher: Mr D Tucker

Church Road, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9DR

Tel: 020 8941 0846, Fax: 020 8941 7651



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Unusually, for the time of year, we have some staffing news. Miss East has decided to relocate to Somerset and will be leaving at Easter. Some of you will know that Miss East has been at St Lawrence since she was a newly qualified teacher ten years ago. You may remember that she took a year off a few years ago to travel the world and has now decided to lay her roots in Somerset. She has made a great contribution to the school in her time here Teaching and Heading up Year 6 for many years and leading on many subjects such as, Science, Assessment and MFL. We wish her well as she settles into country life. We have appointed Mr Jason Noble who will be taking the class for the final term. We look forward to welcoming him and he will also be meeting the class over the coming half term in preparation for his start.

Please can you inform us should you or your child test positive for COVID over the half term break so that we can inform others? Please email [office@stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk)

So, the half term beckons and lockdown awaits. I will be keeping busy. I have almost finished reading the Costco catalogue and I know that grass won't watch itself grow! Have a safe break.

With best wishes,

Mr Damian Tucker

Head teacher



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