

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

16th July 2020

September return

As we approach the end of term and the end of a very challenging academic year, we are now busy putting in place arrangements for our full return in September. We have based all plans on the guidance from Welsh Government along with a number of joint decisions made with our local cluster and Local Authority. Some decisions have to be made on a local level, based on the individual needs and challenges which are particular to our school, including the building and staffing etc. I am pleased to share some of the main plans with you now **(see separate attachment)**, however, given the current situation, things could obviously change. Health and Safety is obviously our priority, but we are also balancing that with the need to get the children back in as soon as we can. Some of the finer details will be finalised over the summer and I will update you if necessary before we return. There will be separate information coming out to those families with children starting in Nursery and Reception who will be invited in for induction visits prior to full starts.

GOODBYES

We need to say some sad goodbyes - first to Bronwen from Reception who is moving house and as a result is going to start a new school in September. Also Alex in Year 1 and Ted in Reception are moving to a new school in September. Good luck Bronwen, Ted and Alex – we will all miss you here at St Andrew's and your new schools are very lucky to have you!

I am always proud of Year 6 but never have I been more proud than this year when I consider what our fantastic leavers have had to put up with. They have not had the opportunity to take part in the usual activities and celebrations that are a rite of passage for leaving primary school. They also haven't experienced the transition activities and visits which are such an important part of moving to High School. Year 6, you have demonstrated such resilience and strength of character in recent months and it has been so lovely to see you and catch up with you all during the past three weeks. I really do wish you every success as you move on and I look forward to hearing about your many successes from my secondary colleagues in the future.

Uniform update 2

As I said last week, we were awaiting guidance on this. Now we know that uniform can return as normal, we will aim to be in full uniform by Monday 14th September (but please do wear uniform earlier if your child would like to). This should give families enough time to sort any necessary purchases out with the office in the first few weeks. Please note, this must be done via email or telephone as adults are not permitted inside the building at present. We have attached the order form to this email. Please remember you do not have to purchase the uniform with the school badge from us. Standard uniform bought in supermarkets etc. is fine.

PTA appeal (repeated message)

Following my request to not give presents to staff this year, some parents suggested donating to the school instead which is a lovely idea! Many of you may now be aware of the PTA appeal to support the school in purchasing outdoor equipment for the pupils to use in September. A huge thank you to the PTA and to those who have donated so far. The fund is being collected via Local Giving which enables the PTA to also claim the giftaid. Please follow the link to find out more.

<https://localgiving.org/SAMSoutdoorlearning>

Thank you!

As I said in last week's letter, thank you for the very positive feedback we have received about the organisation and communication but more importantly about the activities and fun that the children have been having. Thank you to the staff and governors for their hard work and support over the year but especially since March. I think I have read more guidance in the last 4 months than in my whole career and that guidance has been turned into reality by the fantastic team I have working with me. My final, very important thank you goes to you our families. You have also been thrown into uncharted waters, with homeschooling and supporting your children academically and mentally through a period of uncertainty and confusion. As a mum myself, I know how difficult this time has been and seeing your children, our pupils coming back to school with such big smiles on their faces shows what a great job you have done. A strong partnership between home and school is essential and never more so than now. I think the last 4 months have shown just what a great partnership that is. We will continue to work closely together in September and beyond.

Have a great summer everyone – I think we can all agree, we need it.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher