

'Nurture Inspire Discover Create'



Stathern Primary School

Newsletter

September 2020



www.stathern.leics.sch.uk

01949 860316

Dear parents, carers, pupils and members of the community, welcome to our September newsletter.

What a wonderful start the children have had to this eagerly anticipated term. I can't tell you how marvellous it is for the staff and myself to finally get the children back to school, into the new routines that keep them safe and the new learning which will ensure their progress continues this year. Our first few days back have been unlike any before, but the positivity from around the school community has been tangible. Staff teaching, children learning and a feeling that the time was right to welcome the children back...this is what our school is all about. The children have so far shown how resilient they are, slipping into new routines, that really are different to their old normal, making this new normal seems easier for the children, perhaps more so than for us adults. They have listened so well and followed our new protocols in; cleaning, handwashing, playtime, sitting in class, working with each other, lunch times and even how we rotate going to the toilets! It all feels so new, yet so familiar. I have celebrated with the children how well they have adapted, and I must also thank you – our morning and afternoon drop off and pick up routines seem to be working and I thank you for continuing to support us and the national guidance to social distance as we wait outside the school site. By setting this excellent example the children do recognise that we are all 'in it together'. This indeed demonstrates such wonderful team spirit. I have added a '**Top Tips**' section, some thoughts from the staff and myself that will help the children as we move on further into the term. You should have received the Scenarios and What if...information last week. Please contact us if you haven't seen these.

As we move forward this term there will be other changes to the procedures that you are used to. Please see the following pages for details on homework and reading. Parents sometimes ask: 'How much should we get involved with our child's school work?' Well, it is official: research shows that children whose parents are involved in their schooling do up to 15 per cent better. Reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to help their education. Ideally, read with your child every night; if this is not possible, then at a minimum spend ten minutes at least 4 times a week reading with your child. Your child might read a page, and then you could read a page: discuss the book and ask your child about the content. Ask lots of questions which encourage your child to explain what they think the book is telling them – this helps a child's ability to understand or comprehend a text. Also, reading at home does not need to be limited to the school reading book; it can be any book which the child is interested in sharing with an adult. A regular home routine of reading with your child does not replace the reading which goes on in school, but it complements it; children who read regularly with their parents at home quite simply do better in the classroom in all subjects. I am writing about reading in this first newsletter because it is the single most important thing which you can do to help your child.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming term, at a 'social-distance' in the first instance, but as school returns to normal, throughout the year at the upcoming events. I will keep you updated with new guidance and thank you for your patience and understanding.

Mrs Lambert



Maintaining communication with us via Email:

Safe Guarding/General Enquiry Email:

theoffice@stathern.leics.sch.uk

Note: Please title any safe-guarding related e-mails 'safeguarding' and they will be handled by a trained DSL (Designated Safe-guarding Lead)

Class 2 working hard on some phonics and mindfulness activities...



Class 4 listening well and working together on some grammar...



SCHOOL PHOTOS!



Please remember school photos are on **Wednesday, 9th September**, in the morning. The photographs will be taken outside, weather permitting, and will be socially distanced. Children will only be having an individual picture taken, there will be no groups or family shots, at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

'Top Tips'

There are a number of minor issues that have arisen over the first few days, so we have produced a number of suggestions, which should help the children at school.

- 1) **Ensure children have visited the toilet at home when they leave in the morning, ensuring there isn't a long queue for our limited toilets when they arrive at school!**
- 2) **Use hand cream, for example E45, morning and night, to ensure the children's hands do not get sore and red over the coming weeks.**
- 3) **Arrive at the allocated time slot for drop-off and pick-up times, and continue to promote social distancing as the children walk home, or play in the park.**
- 4) **Each day bring in a water bottle, lunch bag and coat.**
- 5) **On Mondays and Fridays bring in book bags, enabling staff to change the children books.**
- 6) **Please do not send in any work, but photograph it and email it in, to be celebrated in class on the overhead projector.**
- 7) **We will be sending home old books and work, this can be quarantined for 48 hours, and will then be safe to look through.**

A note from our Governors...

Welcome back! The governance team at Stathern Primary School are delighted to be able to welcome you all back as we reunite our school community. Over the summer, we have supported Mrs Lambert with rigorous planning to make sure that we can all remain safe. We have also recruited three new members of the governance team who we will introduce you to over the coming weeks.

Let's pray for sunny autumn days as we begin to nurture our school back into the vibrant and fun-filled learning hub that it has always been.

With very best wishes,

Clare

Clare Allen
Chair of Governors
callen@stathern.sch.uk

Updated information!

We would like to thank you all so much for sensibly and thoughtfully assessing whether your child is fit for school. Please remember:

Symptoms of coronavirus in children

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Should your child have a runny nose, cold or phlegmy cough, these are **not the symptoms** highlighted by NHS England. We would still hope that your child would be in school. If your child has a temperature and needs medicating, then that **would be a symptom**, and we would strongly recommend you arrange a test.

To apply for a test please use this link below:

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

The DfE brought out new guidance on the 28th August, 2020. The main changes that impact us at Stathern are:

- Should pre-arranged visitors be in school, they will be offered face coverings to use, should they wish
- Singing, with mitigating factors, is now allowed
- Music lesson will not be starting this half term
- All clubs will be outdoors this term
- We will inform parent in the appropriate bubble if there is a positive Covid test, we will immediately contact PHE
- Masks may be worn by visitors in school, but social distancing will always be encouraged
- The school are recording any visitors into school, allowing us to trace contacts.
- Risk assessments will be reviewed twice weekly and with the Health & Safety governors.
- We will encourage any family who has the symptoms listed above, to isolate and contact NHS England to arrange a test

Homework...

We are changing how we send out and collect in homework. In an effort to reduce cross contamination of paper and books we will be sending home some homework books with the children, but the homework will be posted on the Class Page for each class. There will be a bigger focus on times tables, using Timetables Rock stars, and reading, including sending home reading books and Reading Eggs activities. Reading books will come home on Monday and Friday. This will allow the books to be quarantined between uses. Staff will record when they hear the children read at school, please can you complete the reading records and make comments about how they have read with you at home. We will be sending out more information about reading in the next few weeks. Spellings will be posted on the class page, please practice these at home. The children will also practice these each day in class and be tested every week.

Sports Clubs...

We are thrilled that we can begin to offer after school clubs. These will be outdoors and will be adhering to strict health and safety guidance. Mrs Rozentals will be offering a club on Monday for Class 3 and Wednesday for Class 4. **Clubs will finish at 4pm.** After half term these clubs will change. Please can the children wear PE kits if they intend to go to the clubs, this will ensure they don't need to change clothes in the day.

We are also pleased to say that Happy Lunchtimes has begun in earnest and Mrs Rozentals has started accepting her Sports Crew application letters and will soon be choosing the Sports Crew... the badges have arrived; we just need the Crew!

Class 3 enjoying the start of some topic work...



Class 1 have settled so well and enjoying working together...



Stathern Stars

We are thrilled to celebrate some real superstars at Stathern Primary school. The star this week is: *Mia*

She challenged herself to ride the length of the Grantham to Nottingham canal during the holidays. It is 32 miles long and she rode it in 10 sections, some longer where there was a clear path and others much shorter as she had to battle through long grass on her recumbent bike, which was tough going.

Along with her family, the staff at Stathern are really proud of her resilience, determination and tenacity to see this challenge through especially in the middle stages where it was slow going in those grassy areas. She has raised £724 to date for 2 charities, Heartlink based at Glenfield Hospital where Mia has been cared for since she was a baby and Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre which provides outdoor education opportunities to the people of Leicestershire.

Well done!



If your child has made an impact outside of school, or been a Stathern Superstar, then please email the office with the details and we will add them to the next Stars section of the newsletter!

Friends of Stathern School

WE ARE HOPING TO SET UP A MEETING WITH INTERESTED PARENTS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE... WE MAY NEED TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT THE MEETINGS AND THE ACTIVITIES WE HOLD AND ORGANISE...BUT WE BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE CAN GIVE THE CHILDREN THE EXTRAS THAT THEY DESERVE FROM THE FUNDS THAT THE FOSS RAISE, WHILST ENSURING THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY FLOURISHES

[WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES!](#)

School Visitors

Safeguarding and Health & Safety– Parents Accessing School

Whilst we try to maintain very open channels of communication, could we kindly remind parents of the following restrictions that are in place to safeguard our children and staff, particularly at this time:

- No entry to the school via the back gate/door unless a request is made to the staff on duty.
- No entry to the school via the front of the school unless requested to do so by the office or before/after school club staff.
- It will not be possible for you to speak with your child's teacher when dropping off in a morning from 8:50am or 9am as they are teaching – please do not attempt to go down to classrooms.
- All messages should be given to the staff member on the back gate or at the office (only to be accessed by the front door) or via email, to the office.
- Your child's teacher should be available to speak to you at the end of the day or an appointment can be made if you require a longer conversation to speak over the telephone.

Please remember social distancing guidance, at all times.

Polite reminder

Please 'phone the school by 9am to report any illness or absence.

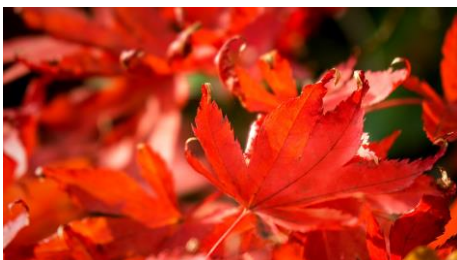
T: 01949 860316

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In an effort to keep everyone fully informed we will be emailing, texting, using the website and posting information on our Twitter account. Please check these regularly.

If any of your details change, please notify the office as soon as possible.

Many Thanks



Enjoy the Autumn Term



@stathernprimary