

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to Mrs Proctor and Mrs Griffin who have both now retired, and to Mr Masood who has relocated away from Birmingham.

They have all sent their many thanks for the cards, gifts and good wishes.

We welcome back Mrs Hegarty from her maternity leave and say hello to Mr Johnson and Mrs Sutton who will be joining us this term in 1Y and RY respectively.

Home School Jotter

One of the ways we are keeping school safe is by limiting the adults in the building. This means it may be harder than usual to pass a message to your child's class teacher.

Your child will be bringing home a small notebook which you may use to write any messages your child's teacher may need to see. You can of course phone or email if you would prefer.



If you have written a message for the teacher in the home school jotter, could your child come into school carrying the jotter in their hand so that the teacher knows to look.

Reading Books

We will be sending reading books home with children in the next few days.

When your child's reading book is returned to school it will be quarantined for 48hrs before being given to another child.

Sibling Going Home Arrangements

There has apparently been some confusion over sibling going home arrangements with our staggered times.

The arrangement to drop off and collect older siblings at the same time as younger siblings was designed to support families with different drop off and collection times, but was not intended to be interpreted as something you "must" do.

If you are happy to stick to each child's designated times this is actually easier for us to manage in school! We will also be opening the double wooden gates at the bottom of the playground as a way into the playground from the field after dropping off junior or Year One children.

School Term Dates 2020 - 2021

We hope these dates for this academic year will be helpful to you. Please remember that holidays cannot be authorised during term time. Children should attend on the following days:

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September 2020 to Thursday 22nd October 2020
Monday 2nd November 2020 to Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 12th February 2021
Monday 22nd February 2021 to Thursday 1st April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April 2021 to Friday 28th May 2021
Monday 7th June 2021 to Tuesday 20th July 2021

There are 5 Teacher Days for the academic year when children do not attend:

Tuesday 1st September
Wednesday 2nd September
Friday 23rd October
Monday 4th January
Wednesday 21st July

Monday 3rd May 2021 (May Day) is a Public Holiday - school will be closed.

St Laurence Church Infant School

Newsletter

Issue 1 September 2020
Reception



Welcome!

Welcome to all of our new Reception children and families. It is so lovely to welcome you into our school family and we hope you will be very happy during your time with us at St Laurence.

We have all been so impressed with how well the Reception children have settled, especially given that we were not able to give them our transition support in the usual way. Many of the children have been away from nursery or pre-school for six months, so to be able to come into a new setting and get stuck in is a real credit to them!

We also want to say a big thank-you to all of the grown-ups who have been observing the one way systems, social distancing and staggered times. Your patience and co-operation are really valued and we are proud to have such wonderful families in these difficult times!

COVID-19

A reminder not to send your child to school if they or anyone in your household have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (coronavirus). These are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste



More information is available at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

If you would like more information on how we are minimising the risks in school, the risk assessment is available on the school website: www.stlrci.bham.sch.uk/

Letters Sent Home

This is the only newsletter which will be sent out on paper as we will be sending all further letters and notices by email. *We will use the email address linked to your Parent-Pay account.*

Using email not only prevents the risk of transmission of the virus, but is also far better for the environment and the school budget than printing onto paper!



We will send emails each Friday so you know when to expect any correspondence from school. During the week we will notify parents of urgent matters by text message.

If accessing emails will be a problem, or you would like an additional letter sent to another email address (for example when parents are separated), please contact the school office to let us know.



Mrs Catherine Smith

I'm sure many families will recognise my face, but I wanted to introduce myself properly. I am absolutely delighted to be the new head teacher here at St Laurence. I love this school and actually started my teaching career here many years ago, before returning as SENCO and deputy head in 2015.

I couldn't wish to lead a more wonderful school with fantastic children, families and staff. I firmly believe in our inclusive, child based and Christian ethos and I will continue to make sure that school is a happy, safe and exciting place for every one of our children to come to each day.

Mrs Catherine Smith



Mrs Jane McFall

Mrs Jane McFall will be taking over as SENCO, DSL, inclusion leader and acting deputy head teacher.

She won't mind me saying that she is a very friendly and approachable person, and if you have any worries about your child or family circumstances she will do whatever she can to help.

If you have any concerns over your child's learning, social difficulties or anxieties; if you are eligible for Pupil Premium funding or speak English as an additional language at home; or if you as a parent are feeling overwhelmed; please do get in touch with us at school.

Blended Learning

We have been making plans for "Blended Learning" so that we can offer education both at school and at home if necessary due to Covid-19. We are mindful that children of our age group cannot access a great deal of learning independently, and need the majority of their tasks to be practical.

We believe most children would find participating in online learning for long periods of time difficult, but listened to your feedback that you would like more contact with class teachers. Therefore our plan is:

- If your child is **ill** they will not need to complete work
- If your child is **isolating** or **quarantining** at home but the rest of their class is in school, we will email (or post if you do not have access to a printer) the work which the rest of the class is completing.
- If a whole class is isolating or if we enter a **local lockdown** where school is asked to close to all pupils except keyworkers and vulnerable children; then we will be providing a mixture of live online sessions and work set through our online platform BGFL 365.



If we do have to move to online teaching, we will be using **Microsoft Teams** for live content. All children have access to this through their **BGFL 365+** log in (which is attached to this newsletter.) This is also the way that children can access work set for them as well as use some simple age appropriate programs.

Please would you let the office know if you feel accessing this content through a PC laptop or smart device such as a phone or tablet will be difficult for your family.

Parents' Evening

Towards the end of September, we usually have a "meet the teacher" parents' evening and then have another meeting after half term. We feel that face to face meetings are so valuable so we have thought very hard about how we can manage these with covid precautions in place.

We have decided that we would need to reduce the number of adults in the building at any one time, and also allow time between appointments for cleaning. As this will mean the meetings will take longer than usual, and be spread over three evenings, we have decided to combine the two usual meetings into one ten minute appointment. Although we usually welcome children at our parents evening we will be asking that you arrange to be able to come **without children** this time.

You will be able to book an appointment by email or phone nearer the time. The times and dates are as follow.

4.30pm —7.00pm		3.30pm —6.00pm		5.30pm —8.00pm	
Tuesday 6th October	RR, 1R, 2R	Tuesday 13th October	RB, 1B, 2B	Tuesday 20th October	RR, 1R, 2R
Wednesday 7th October	RY, 1Y, 2Y	Wednesday 14th October	RR, 1R, 2R	Wednesday 21st October	RY, 1Y, 2Y
Thursday 8th October	RB, 1B, 2B	Thursday 15th October	RY, 1Y, 2Y	Thursday 22nd October	RB, 1B, 2B

Photographs

Monday 5th October

Individual photographs will be taken of all children at the Infant School.

In addition, photographs of Infant family groups will also be taken (ie siblings in YR, Y1 and Y2). Proofs will be sent home and there is no obligation to purchase.

Worship

We are currently joining together as a whole school virtually by Teams to share worship three times a week. The other two sessions are being held in each classroom.



We are looking into being able to invite parents, (by using their child's BGFL 365+ login) to join us for our Celebration Assembly (Monday), Church Assembly (Wednesday) and Birthday Assembly (Friday).

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We are very lucky to have a wonderful and involved PTA. In these times of tight school budgets, the PTA fundraising does really help school to afford some of the little luxuries that make such a difference to your child's experience at school.



Last year, the PTA supported school in buying new interactive whiteboards for each classroom which have replaced the very outdated ones and have lovely clear bright displays.

We are very grateful for the most recent donation of £4,500 towards our playground project to replace the "pirate ship" climbing frame which was sadly no longer safe to use. Without all of your support for the PTA events and their dedication to running them, this project could not go ahead.

As children are only with us for three years, we are always looking for new parents to join in and support in whatever capacity you are able. The PTA have a number of meetings planned for the first half term:

- Tues 15th September Meeting at school
- Wed 14th October AGM at school
- Thurs 22nd October Meeting at The Stone

Bags 2 School

The PTA have also organised a Bags 2 School collection for **Wednesday 30th September**, so if you have had a clear out over lockdown and you have any unwanted clothes, school can benefit from you sending them in to us!

