



St John's
CofE Primary School

St John's CofE Primary School,
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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Graham

Celebrate and learn together

A welcome from the Headteacher

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing St John's Primary School for your child's education and to welcome you to our school community.

Ordinarily, we would be welcoming you to an Information Evening this month, in order to share all of the arrangements for your child starting school. As we don't know yet if we will be able to do this due to the impact of Covid19, we are preparing to share all of this information electronically. The Early Years team will share a short video and a 'Starting School' PowerPoint via our school website. After this, there will also be an opportunity to talk on the phone with a teacher and to ask any individual questions that you may have. **Please make sure you have completed the Google Form for new starters on our website, so that we have your email address and phone number.** We will email all starting school information that you need.

If we are permitted by the government and can make arrangements to do this safely, you will be able to drop your child off for story times in class (or are welcome to stay with them if you would prefer). There will also be 'Stay and Play' sessions, where children are invited to stay independently and start to become familiar with their new surroundings. Ideally, these will take place from the third week in June, although if this is not possible due to Covid, we have contingency plans to structure this in September. In the meantime, teachers will record stories for your children that will be shared via a secure WMAT YouTube channel. Until we are allowed to meet in person, your child will be able to start to get to know the teachers in this way.

In June and July, the Early Years teacher will be contacting nurseries and pre-schools in order to get to know a little more about your child, which helps them to build a picture of your child's abilities and needs. In addition, we hope to offer Home Visits in the first couple of weeks of the Autumn term. These will be informal and friendly so please don't worry that it is an inspection of any kind. We find that by seeing the children in their home environment, it helps them to feel relaxed and familiar with staff in readiness for them starting school. We will take a photo of your child when we visit, so that this can be displayed in the classroom in time for their arrival.

We recognise that it can be both an exciting and perhaps anxious time for children (and parents) when starting school for the first time. If there is anything that we can do to help or to ease any concerns, please do contact either myself or one of the Early Years staff via telephone or by email to the main school office. Mrs Clark is our Administrator and she will be able to answer many of your questions or you may wish to email enquiries@stjohnskeynsham.co.uk.

I look forward to meeting you in person as soon as we are able.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Graham
Headteacher

