



STONE ST MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Caring Growing Shining Together'

Dear Parents,

Welcome back Everyone – it is great to see you all back in and around school for the 2024-2025 year. Let's hope it is a good year for us all!

Sawubona

We have introduced something new to our school in the way we greet each other in the morning and at other times. Talk to your children about this and the reasons why we think this is a lovely thing to do around school and beyond.

'Sawubona' is a Zulu greeting which means 'I see you'. We are going to use this around school to make all of our community feel that they are really seen and valued. When we receive the 'Sawubona' greeting it is replied with 'Yebo Sawubona' which translates as 'I see you too'. We think it will add to the way we work as a community at Stone St. Mary's and fits really well with our vision of 'Caring, Growing, Shining Together' alongside the way we think about 'Ubuntu' too.



Please try to encourage your child to use this new way of greeting each other in and around school – it would be good if we can spread this further too by families using it at home as well! Let's see what a difference it makes to the way our community feel!

MEET THE TEACHERS

Please come along to our meet the teacher sessions. These sessions are very important.

The sessions are as follows:

Year 5 - Monday 9th September 2.30pm
Year 4 - Tuesday 10th September 2.30pm
Year 1 - Wednesday 11th September 2.30pm
Year 2 - Thursday 12th September 2.30pm
Year 3 - Friday 13th September 2.30pm

These meetings will take part in the school hall with all year group teachers this year. We will be talking to you about year group routines etc... alongside learning expectations and how you, as parents, can help to support your child's learning at home. You will return to the classroom at the end of the meeting to see the classroom and collect your child and meet the Teaching Assistant.

Year 6 Information Evening

There will be a Year 6 Information Meeting on Thursday 12th September at 6.30pm in the school hall.

Please endeavor to attend this important start of Year 6 as it allows us to ensure that good home-school relationships are being built and gives you lots of information regarding the exciting events of Year 6. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to attend with you to hear the same messages too.

Remember – if you have any concerns or questions etc.. throughout the school year please talk to or email quickly your child's class teacher as this will ensure that anything gets sorted in a timely and positive way.

**OUR SCHOOL CHRISTIAN VALUES ARE
COMMUNITY HOPE TRUST RESPECT FORGIVENESS WISDOM**



New Reception Children and Families

Welcome to our new Year R children and families – it has been great to see all the smiley faces joining our school. We know that all the children will settle very quickly and we look forward to you all being a big part of our wonderful school community.

Please come along to our **Year R Parent Welcome Coffee** Morning on **Tuesday 17th September at 9am** in the school hall. This is a time for you to meet other parents and to ask any early questions you have about Stone St. Mary's CE Primary School – see you all there!

Uniform

Children have returned to school all looking very smart - thanks for your support with this!

A reminder that trainer shoes can be worn by girls and boys if they wish but they must be completely black and **only** trainer shoes and not proper trainers.

Please ensure all uniform has a name written in it. This also includes water bottles (containing water, not juice) and lunch boxes etc.

REMINDER – PE uniform needs to be black joggers, house colour t-shirt and school jumper only. We will be reminding children of this if they are not wearing the correct PE uniform so please help to ensure that your child is ready for PE on PE days.

Uniform Orders

If you would like to order uniform please do so on the Arbor App and the uniform will be delivered to your child's classroom as soon as it is ready.

#HELLO YELLOW DAY
– 10th October 2024

Mental Health
Awareness

Wear yellow to school – donation collections on playground! Look out for the children holding buckets for you to throw your spare pennies into.



ATTENDANCE

Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

89% or below
Drastic effect on
academic achievement

96% - 90%
Cause for Concern

100% - 97%
Excellent!



Attendance across school last year was improved so many thanks for all your efforts around this – this will definitely improve the outcomes of the children too which is great news! Please continue to ensure that attendance at school is a high priority!

The school will continue to be monitoring the attendance of all pupils in a variety of ways and liaise with parents when attendance falls below the required thresholds.

If your child is absent from school, please telephone and speak with the office before 9.00am.

Penalty Notices could still be triggered and reported to Kent County Council and the amount of the fine has increased as many of you will have heard. We will send more information out about these changes in the next week or so.

Thank you for your continued positive support with attendance in school for your children!

Class Worship

As usual, Class Worship have all been scheduled and are on the dates sheet. Please please put them into your diaries so that you can attend and support your children – they absolutely love seeing you in the audience when they are performing!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

INFLATABLES AFTERNOON

Friday 27th September

3.00pm – 5.15pm

More details to follow very soon!

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Drop-off and Pick-Up

Just a reminder about the morning and afternoon drop-off and collection. Your child should be dropped and collected at the given time.

PLEASE keep to your drop-off and collection times – children will not be released from classrooms until their designated timings so please arrive at the correct times so that you do not have to wait around. If you need to change your times for any reason please ensure that you have had a discussion with your class teacher and that this has been logged on the system.

A – I 8.30am 3.00pm

J – R 8.40am 3.10pm

S – Z 8.50am 3.20pm

We will be monitoring the time that children are dropped off in school as if they are continually later in the morning but still being collected at 3.00pm then we will discuss with you about collecting them later too as they need to be in school for the statutory time. Thanks for your continued co-operation with this.

Once you have collected your child they are your responsibility so ensure you are carefully watching them and where they are playing or going with their friends - their safety is paramount at all times so please help us to maintain this – many thanks!

Any holiday requests cannot be authorised unless there are very specific circumstances in line with our policy. Please note again that having good attendance is not a criteria for authorising a holiday request and unauthorised absence through holiday may also lead to the issuing of a penalty notice.

Monday 21st October 2024



KS2 – 9.15am – Thanksgiving Worship

KS1 – 2.00pm – Thanksgiving Worship

Parents are welcome to attend.

PARKING AND DRIVING REMINDERS AROUND SCHOOL

Just a few reminders around the parking and driving protocols that we like all of our parents to adopt when dropping off and collecting your children in order to keep all of the children safe!

- 1) Please park in a legal bay and not where you should not park – particularly across a crossing place!
- 2) Please do not park in the Bluewater emergency exit as this is not legal and the crossing of the road from there for children is not safe!
- 3) Try to park further away from the school and walk in to reduce the traffic around school – there are plenty of safe places to park a little walk from school.
- 4) Try to observe the unwritten rule of a one-way system in that we drive from St. James Road end and keep going that way up into Louvain Road so that cars are not needing to pass each other as much – this helps the flow of traffic and is much safer.

PARENT WORKSHOP

EARLY READING AND PHONICS

Tuesday 24th September 2024

9.00am – 10.00am

6.00pm – 7.00pm - online

This workshop is aimed at Reception and Key Stage 1 parents. There will be elements repeated from last year's workshop and some new information too. We had really positive feedback last year so if you have not attended this workshop it is a must but please also come along again to learn more too! More information will follow in due course. Look forward to seeing lots of parents there to support their children with Reading!

Diary Dates 2024 – 2025

These are all attached – please ensure that you diarise all of the dates so that you do not miss anything!

Yours sincerely
Mrs Jane Rolfe

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