

St Saviour's School



Newsletter

'Achieve, Respect, Co-operate'

May 2020 (2nd newsletter)

Summer Term

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Saviour's School,

I am writing this newsletter to you at the end of probably the most unusual half term any of us have ever experienced. You may well have heard the news this morning that schools are remaining only open to very small identified pupils during the week after half term. The Education Minister, Senator Tracey Vallois, has announced that any phased re-opening of schools is not going to take place at least until Monday 8th June. We continue to work hard at school and with other Government Departments to plan for and prepare for school opening at such a time that it is deemed safe, and in a controlled manner. We will let you know any plans as soon as they are confirmed. I appreciate this may be causing great concern in families for a huge variety of reasons and have been in touch with some families this week that wanted to discuss and share their concerns. Next week is the half term break and I am hopeful that during/after that we will have a clearer idea of how the second half of the Summer Term will be for our pupils, families and staff. Staff continue to provide learning through Seesaw, paper packs and the school website and I know through the responses to the survey that some of you are also using some resources you have found useful at home i.e. online video learning links etc.

Learning and Managing at Home Survey results so far:

Thanks to those of you that have managed to find the time to complete the survey and share your views. 51 responses have been received so far, with a range of responses from Nursery to Year 6. The survey is still open at:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/5ZS6RE/>

- 92% of those that responded are using Seesaw, paper packs or a mixture of the two. Some families are using the school website and a

solely things they have sourced themselves.

- 85% of those who responded said that their child is accessing some learning every day. We had listened to some feedback previously about allowing some time for finishing off learning from the week on a Friday and this seems to have been well received with comments like:

"Some days are more difficult to juggle than others- with working from home. We appreciate the no new work on a Friday- it gives a chance to catch up."

It is clear that whilst parents are also expected to work from home, this gives an added challenge and some families are having to juggle doing their own work as well as supporting child/ren. Please don't put added pressure on yourselves as a family, it is important you work out a routine that works for you as a family. These comments will be familiar to some of you:

"We are sharing laptops and have just recently requested paper packs instead."

"We are working around mum and dad's work days and our child's capacity on a give day for learning. Some days are easier than others. We are going to sit down and come up with a plan for learning next week, as it was a very difficult week last week."

With regard to whether your child is enjoying the range of learning provided, there was a 51% response of 'Yes' and a 49% response of 'Sometimes'. There were no 'No' responses (that was a relief!). It was really helpful to read the comments made in this section and as a staff team we are planning to address these by providing a greater range after half term i.e. more music, computing, physical activities and art/craft activities. We appreciate resources may be limited at home so these may be more optional activities but want to respond to the feedback you have given:

"More art please"

"Some more music tasks"

"Coding"

Some parents requested video chat calls to build in some social aspects for pupils. This is something we think is important but is not recommended by the Education Department currently, due to E Safety concerns. It may be that small groups of parents decide to do this themselves and contact each other and monitor the communication. This is much harder for younger pupils. Zoom is not recommended at all due to a number of security breaches. We will continue to look at ways in which we could support the more personal aspect of education and appreciate the feedback about the use of voice messages/responses, some pre-recorded video teaching and telephone contact. 80% of respondents are happy with the level of contact so far either via email, telephone or Seesaw. This is certainly an area than can be developed.

"Both yes & no. More direct contact is required but I understand how many children are in a class."

"The teachers have been very helpful and the voice answering on seesaw is a great idea"

"It would be good for children to see their teacher through Skype or Zoom. Seesaw is too impersonal"

"I know his teacher can be messaged through Seesaw and she gets back to us quickly."

Thanks for the comments, compliments and complaints as part of the last question. These have really helped us to focus on what is going well and what we can do even better. We are working as a staff team to develop things we can be doing better, those things which are in our 'power' to address – unfortunately we cannot supply a teacher to work with your child at home at this time (thank you for the smiley face that accompanied this suggestion), nor can we reopen school just yet. We appreciate just how hard it is, many of us are managing home learning ourselves with our own families and know how challenging it is. Some of the feedback in the last section is as follows:

"I am concerned about the time I spend on homework because we continue to work and the disadvantage that she may have when she returns to school."

"I think the teachers are doing a great job in what is a really challenging situation for everyone"

"Interactive sessions with the teacher and other school children, maybe on Zoom or something similar, to help integration when they go back to school"

"My child's teacher has been wonderful at providing daily tasks on seesaw. My child also uses the paper Pack and is enjoying the activities in there. We are happy with it all."

"Really impressed with how well it has worked."

"I have been surprised at how much they are learning in reception. I cannot believe that I knew so little about what he was learning until this time of homeschooling. We've got used to seesaw now and the novelty has worn off, but at the beginning I was so impressed at how cleverly it makes use of technology while still mimicking the best of a paper and pencil. Thank you."

"I fully respect and appreciate all efforts from St Saviours School and the class teacher. Thank you for everything that you do!"

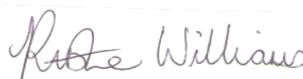
As noted when I sent out the original survey link – please so let us know how to contact you if you have anything specific you would like support with or to share with us. We can always be contacted via email at admin@stsaviour.sch.je and can email or telephone you back. Please don't hesitate to be in touch, especially if this current situation is very stressful for you and you family – we are here to help.

Finally...Staffing updates:

- Congratulations to Mrs Kim Lopez, who has been successfully appointed to the role of Teacher in Charge of The Haven, she will take over from Mrs Judy Allan, who will be retiring in July.
- A Fond Farewell to Mrs Nicola Maindonald, who leaves us today (but will be back to help from time to time). We wish her all the best as she takes more time to spend with her family.
- Welcome to Mrs Rachel Burnham, who is joining us as a Teaching Assistant, we look forward to properly welcoming her to our school and introducing her to you.

Please also check the school website (www.stsaviour.sch.je) or Facebook for updates and/or important dates.

Yours most sincerely,



**Mrs Kirstie Williams
Headteacher**