



## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that despite the current restrictions, that you all had a restful and peaceful Christmas. On behalf of the staff, we would all like to say a huge thank you for the cards, gifts and good wishes as we broke up for the Christmas holiday. We really did appreciate it all.

It has certainly been a very strange start to 2021 for everyone. This is not the start that anyone would have wished for. With the dramatic rise in infection rates across the UK, and particularly in London, we are all very concerned with the safety of our community and we understand that the best place for all children is to be at home. This week, we have had six members of our school staff isolating – either because they have tested positive or because someone within their household has tested positive. The statistics in Lewisham are very worrying and we do need to do all that we can to keep all of our wonderful community safe.

Following the recent announcements from the government, we now know that school will not return to the majority of pupils until after February half term with all teachers providing online learning for their pupils. Staff have worked incredibly hard over the past week to begin the process of online learning, recording videos, arranging live meetings and 'talking' to their pupils via the stream. It is really important that the children try to keep to the routine of the school day. Please encourage your children to register each morning at 9am by saying "Good morning" on the stream. The work is all scheduled to come online by 9am and it is important that your children begin working through the work and turning in each piece of work so that their teachers can see what they have understood.

We understand that many of you are sharing devices between siblings, and we are therefore working together so that, wherever possible, our Goggle Meets are at different times for each class.

We are continuing to source further devices for our families while we wait for the support promised from the Department of Education. We have a number of ways that we are doing this:

- Encouraging people to donate to our fundraising page:  
<https://www.rocketfund.org/st-josephs-laptop-and-ipad-support-for-pupils>
- Donating old laptops or tablets that can be refurbished and distributed to families:  
[https://www.facebook.com/Donate-laptops-for-Learning-Deptford-101743885216700/?view\\_public\\_for=101743885216700](https://www.facebook.com/Donate-laptops-for-Learning-Deptford-101743885216700/?view_public_for=101743885216700)

If you are able to share these pages with people you know, please do. We want to be able to support as many families as we can.

I am very conscious that I want to remain in contact with our families over the coming weeks and I will be therefore be holding a series of 'drop in' sessions. This will enable us to talk about the online learning offer and I can take any feedback that you may have. The first of these meetings is on Tuesday morning at 10am. Please email me at [headteacher@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk) for the log in details.

From Monday 11th January, the BBC are also providing on-line learning. Please click on the following link to find out more: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Whilst libraries remain closed, there are many books available via their e-books system. You can find out more at: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/elibrary>

### **Reception Class 2021**

#### **CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**Do you have a child born between September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017? If so, have you completed the application process and submitted a supplementary application form? If you have any questions, please telephone the school office or email [admin@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk).**

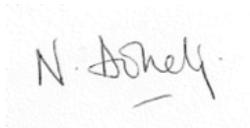
Miss Doherty is still holding meetings for anyone who would like to take a virtual tour around the school. Please contact her on: [headteacher@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@stjps.lewisham.sch.uk) for the virtual meeting link.

We are continuing to keep you all in our thoughts and our prayers at this difficult time. If you need any support, please do contact us and we will do all we can to support you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe everyone.

Best Wishes



Miss Nicola Doherty (Headteacher)



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