



St. John's Church of England Middle School

1ST September 2020.

Year 5 Induction

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope you have all had a happy and healthy summer and it is a pleasure to be able to say that the year 5 team are greatly looking forward to being able to welcome our new starters on Thursday 3rd September. I sincerely hope all of our new pupils are excited to be able to return to school and start their time with us at St. John's. Having unfortunately missed so many of the transition activities we would normally have offered to our new intake, in addition to the extended period of time away from normal school life, we fully appreciate there may be some nerves or concerns about what to expect in their first few days and weeks, so I wanted to provide some information and reassurance.

You should have recently received a letter and handbook with details of all the provision and procedures for the reopening of the school, but within the classroom there will also be a greater focus on induction and helping pupils to settle into school life again. This will start from the moment pupils arrive at the gates, where they will be met and welcomed by members of staff, then helped to line up with their class teacher first thing in the morning. (Staff introduction videos are still available on our website, so pupils can 'meet' their teacher in advance). The classes will then be led into the school and see their class for the first time, where they will be fully welcomed by their new teacher.

The first two days back will be based within their own classroom and dedicated entirely to induction and settling in. These will have a less formal structure and will include;

- Introductions from staff and 'getting to know you' activities,
- Provision of planners and timetables for the coming year,
- Time allocated to discussion, questions and answer sessions to address any concerns,
- Familiarising with school procedures, such as breaks and lunchtimes,
- A variety of fun and creative 'settling-in' tasks,
- Opportunities to meet and get to know other members of the year 5 team.

Pupils will of course be regularly reminded that should they have any worries concerns, or questions about any aspects of the school, they can always speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help.

In the following weeks and through the term we will also be incorporating our 'Recovery Curriculum' into the timetable (details are included in the return handbook) and time will be regularly allocated for class discussions and activities designed to help pupil health and wellbeing.

In addition, resources are still available on our website under our 'New Starters 2020' section and may be useful to refer to before starting. These include our staff introduction videos, video tour of year 5 classes, PowerPoint presentations and information booklets, including our transition booklet which has a section for any worries or questions, which pupils may find useful to look at, fill in and bring to school to discuss as part of the induction days.

These are particularly challenging times to be starting a new school, but please be reassured we will provide whatever support we can to pupils and families over the coming days, weeks and terms to ensure our new year 5 pupils can happily settle back into school life and thrive within their first year at St. John's.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Owen
Head of Year 5