



St. John's Church of England Middle School

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

It is a pleasure to write to you in order to welcome the children back and provide the details on how their return will be managed. We have delayed providing the full details as national guidance has been changing frequently and indeed the advice on masks was updated yesterday. Full detail on the arrangements for welcoming the children back is contained within the attached handbook that is also available on our web site.

It is with a great sadness that I also have to inform you that a member of the St John's staff passed away over the summer. Mr Luijk former Head of Science and more recently a maths intervention teacher who had worked at St John's for over 26 years died in July after a short illness. I am sure parents will join us in expressing both our sadness for his loss and thanks for the wonderful service that he gave to current and former pupils.

We have been preparing for the children's return through the summer and there has been significant works taking place including decorating, new flooring and the installation of hand sanitisers across the school. The details are contained within the handbook. We are developing our blended learning strategy that will use Google Classroom as our platform. Mr Cheuk will provide more details, but we are yet to reach a viable number of parents signing up for the Google Notebook scheme so while we will not be implementing this part of the strategy yet we will keep it under review.

As you will be aware we are part of The Spire Church of England Learning Trust and there are now four schools within the Trust that include St John's Primary school in Kidderminster, St Matthias Primary school in Malvern, and Witton Middle School in Droitwich will formally join us in December. The Trust has been growing steadily over the last three years and we have been building capacity and structure at St John's to accommodate this. Mrs Elwell who became Head of School in September 2019 will continue in this role and be in charge of St John's on a day to day basis and be part of the excellent senior team that we have developed that will include Mr Cheuk as Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education), Mr Medway Deputy Headteacher (Personal Development and Inclusion), Mrs Carey-Jenkins (Teaching and Learning and ITT provision) and Mr Upwood (Assistant Head Personal Development and Acting Head of Year 6) who is returning following a very successful secondment with the Local Authority. As Executive Headteacher across the Trust I will not be in St John's on a daily basis and Mrs Elwell will exercise the full authority of a Headteacher. The Trust has provided many benefits for the staff and children at St John's and will continue to provide opportunities for us to work collaboratively in our drive for excellence in the classroom.

As parents are aware we are in an ever changing environment and we will continue to both review our guidance to you to ensure it is in line with national guidance and do our utmost to keep you up to date.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back after such an unsettled period and will as ever do our best to provide a warm nurturing Christian environment in which the children can flourish.

May we thank you for your support and all the kind messages we received during lockdown and look forward to our continuing partnership over the next academic year.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Roberts
Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Elwell
Headteacher

St. John's Church of England Middle School Academy

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