

9 January 2024

Dear Parents

As we returned this term in a flurry of snow, I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful break.

The cold weather is with us for a few days now and may return as the term progresses. Of course, as the temperature goes down, we want to make sure everyone stays warm and safe. The children may wear school beanie hats at playtimes (although caps / hats must be worn to and from school) and the office has a supply of St Faith's snoods available for purchase. We also ask that pupils bring in dark coloured gloves. **EVERYTHING MUST BE NAMED!** As a parent there is nothing more frustrating than losing newly purchased items so, please securely attach name labels or sharpie items clearly so they can be returned to pupils when found. A great skill we request you work on with your children is looking for their name in their clothing, so they are sure they have their own items! You would be surprised how easy it is to lose a pair of trousers or socks (and on a swimming day in the summer term this can even extend to pants!). We work hard to reunite items with their owners, but we can only do this if everything is named. Please check the bottom of PE bags and washing baskets for those rogue items of clothing that may have sneaked into your child's possession by mistake and return them to their owners.

If the weather deteriorates and you question whether the school will remain open, we will inform you via WhatsApp, Facebook & Instagram at 7am and on the school website as soon as possible.

Hopefully, the viruses, coughs and colds will be killed off by this cold spell. Please be reminded there is no longer a need to test for Covid, unless you are in contact with someone who is vulnerable. As a standard, pupils should be kept at home if they are not well enough to be in school. A good measure of this is if they have a temperature without having taken any medication or pain relief. If your child spikes a temperature when at school, we will call for them to be taken home as they should not be in school whilst their bodies are battling an illness.

As you know any incident of sickness or diarrhoea must be followed by 48 hours of isolation at home to prevent tummy bugs or viruses being circulated amongst year groups and teaching staff.

This term, we have many exciting activities to look forward to starting with the STEAM day yesterday, the House Music Competition ('Take That' themed!), Reading Competition, Gala Concert in Canterbury Cathedral, Young Voices, First LEGO League competition and residential trips including the ski trip. There are also a couple of additional activities that are yet to be finalised, so watch this space!

Our teachers and specialist teachers work tirelessly to deliver these events and activities in order to ensure your children receive a wealth of experiences beyond their academic learning. St Faith's really is a great place to be...as many of our visitors say 'I wish I could come back to school!'

This term we welcome Ms Sarah Vickers to St Faith's as Reception teacher. She has a wealth of experience teaching Early Years and KS1 and I am pleased that she has decided to join our dedicated team. She will continue to be ably supported by Mrs Laura West, who, as a qualified and experienced teacher herself, offers excellent support for our Reception children alongside Ms Vickers. They will be joined this term on



a Friday by Miss Amy Mumby, Early Years Educator, who is well known by many in the class from their time in Nursery.

Finally, may I thank Mr Andrews for his unwavering support both in school as our pastoral deputy head teacher and for his consistent smile in the face of adversity directing traffic! He risks his life (and sense of humour) when standing out on the main road every day. He is often on the receiving end of verbal abuse, not to mention the threat of being crashed into by drivers who are in a hurry. Please remember to smile, be kind and thank him for making sure our children, parents, staff and visitors remain safe at the start and end of the day!

Please remember my door is always open should you have any queries, and our class teachers are available at the end of the day if you have anything you would like to discuss with them.

Best wishes to you all and a Happy New Year!

Helen Coombs

Headteacher