

Dear parents, carers and children,

I hope you are all safe and well.

Some of you may be aware that the school building and grounds have been targeted by vandals during this lockdown period. They vandalised the Forest school site at the beginning of the lockdown and I am sad to say they have done this again (twice) this week. They have caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage. This has been devastating for our community. Forest School is a space we all love and have worked hard to create. You can read more about this here. <https://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/crime/balaclava-wearing-vandals-break-st-leonards-school-grounds-2865878>

Our lovely Mrs Barrett has set up a 'Go Fundme' page to help with the costs of repairs and increase security on the site. I have been blown away by the generosity from our school and local community as well as people across the country. If you would like to donate the link is here. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-leonards-cep-academy-forest-school>

Phased reopening of school

On Monday 1st June the school will begin the process of a phased return to school. We are pleased to be welcoming back over 100 children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as continuing to provide child care for key workers' children. We have had to make significant changes to the school environment to enable this phased return. There is a short video on the school blog that shows some of the changes. <https://www.stleonards-ce.e-sussex.sch.uk/blog/2020-05-23-school-tour> .

Based on Government guidance children can be taught in groups no bigger than 15 and in the Reception classes those groups are no bigger than 8. This means that many of the children returning will not be in their classrooms and will not be taught by their usual class teacher. There is information on the school blog that has been sent to all parents, carers and children returning. <https://www.stleonards-ce.e-sussex.sch.uk/blog/2020-05-22-back-to-school-information-year-6>. This will also give you an insight in to what school will look like.

At this time we do not know when other year groups will be returning to school.

Keyworker/critical worker classes

We are continuing to offer childcare for keyworkers/critical workers. The guidance for the size of these groups is the same as other groups. However the classrooms we are using can only safely accommodate 12 children at a time. These groups are currently full with the children that have been attending during the lockdown period. As we are not yet fully staffed we are unable to offer any more spaces. We are hoping to be able to increase this in

the next week to 10 days. As the Government have started to ease lockdown we have had an influx of requests. We are sorry that we are unable to cater for these requests at this time. The safety of the children and staff is our priority and I am not prepared to go over numbers. Please contact the office via email if you feel you may need child care in the coming weeks. If you are a keyworker (as detailed in Government guidance March 2020) we will have you on our keyworker list.

Decisions about returning to school 15th June

For the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, parents/carers will be given the opportunity to decide once again if they would like their child to return to school from 15th June.

However, we would like to make you aware of the Government guidance, which is that we are to prioritise school spaces for keyworker and vulnerable children. This could result in a situation where we may not be able to increase numbers in Reception, Year 1 and 6 due to staffing numbers and available classrooms. We will, of course, continue to communicate with you at each step of this process.

St. Leonard's are superheroes

Last week, our whole school topic was superheroes! The children in school have drawn, written, created, baked and danced as if they were super heroes and, at home, we know that lots of you have also been enjoying this topic too.

We just want you all to know that we think each and every one of you is a superhero and that we are so proud of you for persevering, staying safe and achieving great things, whether that be at home or school.



Stay safe and see you soon.

Marie Burgess - Headteacher