



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Principal's eNews

Term 1 Issue 2 | 11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

It is pleasing to report, the concerns that I, along with many, had about the new SOPs and how they may negatively impact the children's learning and enjoyment of school, have shown to be unproven in these first few weeks of school.

As I walk around the school, it is clear to see that everyone has adapted exceptionally well to the new rules and timetables. In the classrooms, the children are happy, engaged in and enjoying their learning. The teachers are now are teaching the normal curriculum subjects and topics, along with being able to take their classes outside to learn as well as engage in physical and wellbeing activities.

It is satisfying to see the school in near-normal operation and to be able to give the children those essential experiences and opportunities which promote their love of learning and the school.

This week, we started the GL assessment in English and Maths. These are assessments we would have done in May, but due to the MCO, had to be postponed. These tests will give us an indication as to the children's abilities and support target settings and teacher planning. I will report on our findings once we have completed all year groups.

### Student Leadership

Student Leadership is an essential aspect of the school, and last week, Y6 students applied and interviewed for the role of Prefect. Yesterday, I hosted the first Prefect lunch of the year, and they will begin supporting the students and teachers next week. Next week, we will be selecting the House Captains. Good luck to all those who apply.

### Head of Early Years and Infants

Thank you all for helping to give the children such a smooth return back to school. The children have settled back into school life exceptionally well, and it has been fantastic to see our new starters in Nursery make the transition from a staggered start to full mornings. Having visited each class to deliver assemblies, break duties or just to pop in to meet the children, I have been so impressed with their adaptability. Each year group is showing engagement, and enthusiasm with learning, despite the current restrictions on resources and our classrooms are full of smiling, happy children. We have all missed this very much!

### Head of Juniors

The children have made an excellent start to the term, and have been so excited to see each other and their teachers. They have adapted well to following the SOPs and are excited about the introduction of the happiness bag, where they can bring items to school to help heighten their mood. As our focus has been on the children's emotional wellbeing, please have conversations with your children at home about how they are feeling and what 'colour' on the mood meter they are.

### Google Classroom

We have reopened Google Classroom to all students in the school; everyone should have their login and password and be able to access it from home. In Juniors, the focus will be for the children to login and check this themselves - parents are welcome to support; however, please encourage their independence. In Infants and Early Years, although the children will not be using the platform themselves, parents can log in using their email address to access home learning tasks and see any communication sent by your class teacher. Please note the primary communication tool with your class teacher is always email or face to face.

### Books, Books and More Books



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At SCIPS, we want to encourage the children to develop a love of reading. Currently, due to the SOPs, it has been challenging to provide the students with the reading opportunities they would have had previously. However, all of that is about to change! Please see the attached flyer 'Get Reading' explaining the exciting options we've created to get our students reading again.

### **School Shop Online**

With the limited access for parents to the school campus, we have made it simpler to buy from the school shop by putting it online. Next week, parents do not need to come in; they can log on and order through the website, and then come to collect and pay at the school office.

### **Class Parents**

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to be class parents. This key role supports teachers with communication and class activities. Whatsapp is a simple and effective way to communicate by setting up a class chat group. To do this, we will pass on your mobile numbers to the class parent. However, if you do not wish to be involved, please let your teacher know, and your contact details will not be shared.

Enjoy the weekend

**Martin Towse**