



# St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent  
St Lawrence  
Jersey  
JE3 1NG

Telephone: 01534 863172  
Nursery: 01534 865524  
Email: admin@stlawrence.sch.je

## Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents

You will be receiving your child's curriculum letter today along with this whole school newsletter from myself. I hope that you find the letters informative and useful. If you have any questions about the school or your child's class following reading the letters, then please get in touch.

On a normal year, we would be meeting up with each other face to face but while we are unable to do that I hope that writing to you will keep you up to speed with some of what we are up to.

### A comment about the months we spent in lockdown:

St Lawrence Primary school is a strong community, and this year with the specific challenges of Covid 19, we have worked in partnership with our families more than ever.

For school, this meant making some rapid decisions around how we would provide remote learning, contacting more than 60 families who work in the essential services and met the criteria for a place at school, working out a communication strategy, implementing new safeguarding and child protection procedures as well as looking after ourselves, our families and our loved ones.

For parents, it meant working closely with the school to educate their children (bypassing the usual 4 years of initial teacher training!) as well as the grappling with the real challenges of juggling working from home.

It is a testament to our parent community, to the strength of the parent's partnership with school, and to the absolute commitment of our staff, that we were able to navigate our way through these months with the minimum of disruption to the children's progress.

We checked in with our parents once we had established our home learning routines, using an online survey. I was pleased with the outcomes of the survey which showed us that 95% or more of the 46 respondents found the teacher's instructions for the online learning were clear enough, that the activities were pitched correctly, that there was enough variety in the home learning to keep the children interested, and that the weekly phone calls were worthwhile. I was especially happy to hear that all of the respondents to the survey found that the feedback from the teachers encouraged their children to keep trying with their home learning and was effective in letting the children know how they had done. I know how hard the teachers worked to provide this timely feedback and I am sure that they are glad to hear that it worked out so well for you all.

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We were fortunate in that we were able to provide iPads and laptops to children who needed them through our school resources and I am conscious that this would not have been possible without the legacy of financial support provided by the PTA over the years, putting us into this fortunate position by bolstering our school budget. We are eternally grateful for the work that the PTA put in to raise funds and provide the events the children enjoy through the year. If you have any spare time, then please do consider getting in touch with Emma, the chairperson, to offer your services. There is never any pressure to give more time than you can, and it is a lovely group of people to be involved with. There is a page on the website that will explain more if you are interested. <http://www.stlawrence.sch.je/pta/>

I am very proud to be able to report that despite school closures during lockdown, our Year 6 outcomes compare very favourably to other similar Jersey Primary schools in 2019 (when they were last reported) and that we were able to stretch a greater proportion of our students to achieve the highest outcomes this year, preparing them well for the next stage in their education.

As we move on through the year, we will be finding ways of returning to as much business as usual within the Government's guidelines. We are pleased that the very special atmosphere created through the children's curiosity and fascination in lessons has never felt more palpable, that we have our breakfast and after school clubs back up and running and that our after school sports clubs are all getting back on their feet. If you would like to see what we have on offer in terms of clubs after school, then this information is on the website. <http://www.stlawrence.sch.je/extra-curricular-clubs/>

## **A comment on the strategic direction of the school over the next 2 years:**

Looking forward to the key priorities for school improvement, we have begun working on 3 main themes:

1. Throughout each year group and across the curriculum, children make substantial and sustained progress, developing excellent knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. The school's curriculum and culture make a very positive impact on children's personal development
3. The school's vision for the curriculum sets unwavering high expectations and enables children and staff to thrive and excel.

We took our first action towards these aims in the staff training day yesterday by developing our existing behaviour policy and changing it to the new 'teaching good behaviour' policy. It is more aligned to our school's core values than the previous policy and is designed to encourage our school community to teach good behaviour through a supportive, restorative and compassionate approach.

There is a commitment from parents as part of the policy which reads:

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*An open and transparent relationship with parents is essential. Parents will be given access to a copy of this policy so that rewards and consequences can be discussed with their child.*

*We expect parents to:*

- *Check that their child understands and agrees with the rewards and consequences outlined in the Policy*
- *Be available for consultations/telephone conversations/emails regarding their child's behaviour when necessary*
- *Meet their child's basic needs at home so that when they come to school they are in good health (not hungry, thirsty or tired); have the appropriate equipment for their learning; and are appropriately dressed (correct uniform or PE kit)*
- *Support the rewards and consequences given during the school day. If parents have any concern about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher. If the concern remains, then they should contact the Head teacher*

The full policy is on our website for you to have a look at. [http://www.stlawrence.sch.je/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_09\\_10\\_good\\_behaviour\\_policy.pdf](http://www.stlawrence.sch.je/wp-content/uploads/2020_09_10_good_behaviour_policy.pdf)

**Dates for your diaries:**

## Football Club

30 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Sponsored walk afternoons (2 classes at a time to mitigate Covid 19 risks) – sponsorship forms to follow next week
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent/Teacher consultations (phone calls) – we will let you know about the online booking system next week
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y1/Y2 Christmas Show (1.00-3.00)
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Christmas Show (evening)
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Elf Day in Y1 and Y2
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party for KS1/KS2 (PTA) PM Reception to Fort Regent?
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nursery nativity AM/Rec Nativity PM
16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Cineworld trip
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Church Service (1.00-3.00)
18 <sup>th</sup> December-4 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas Holidays

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The new football season should have been in full swing by now, but obviously with our current restrictions this isn't possible. We are awaiting further guidance from Education in the next couple of weeks and hopefully fixtures against other schools can soon resume.

In the meantime, will be running football training in Year group 'bubbles' on a Wednesday 3:15pm - 4:15pm with Year 4, 5, & 6 on a rotation. Boys and girls are welcome, but your child must have the correct football clothing; - shin pads, football boots and a water bottle ready to play (extra kudos from Mr Fancourt for Liverpool shirts). Mr Fancourt intends to run the first session on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Year 6 first week, Year 5 second week and Year 4 third week. The sessions will have to be cancelled if there is heavy rain.

## Reminders and requests

You have been supportive in helping us to make the staggered drop off and pick up routines run safely and efficiently. Would all parents please be aware that drop off starts at 8.30 and no children should be walking into school or classrooms before this time.

Please remember to pack a spoon with your child's lunch if they need one for a yoghurt etc. We are very stretched for staff during lunchtimes because of the class bubbles and it would help us out if children had everything they need.

Please remember to drive slowly along the lanes behind the school at pick up and drop off times. I would like to encourage more children and families to cycle and walk in to school. With the lanes being narrow, their safety and enjoyment relies completely on drivers being thoughtful and considerate. For those leaving the car park, please be mindful of those dropping children at the gate and wait behind them, to ensure the safety of all of our school children.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the staff, the volunteers, the children and their families at St Lawrence school for everything you all do to make it the special place it is.

The support I receive from all of you makes my job such a pleasure and is always appreciated.

Amory Charlesworth

Headteacher.

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