

Headteacher's Update – 9.1.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year

I hope you all had a wonderful break over Christmas and were able to enjoy some quality family time.

It has been a pleasure welcoming the children and staff back to school this week and seeing everyone sharing Christmas news, settling back into routines, and enjoying the snow!

Feast of the Epiphany

This week we marked the Feast of the Epiphany with a special whole-school assembly. The children listened beautifully as we reflected on the story of the Wise Men and the meaning behind their journey and gifts. It was a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect, celebrate and learn and to hear once more their beautiful singing of 'We Three Kings'.



January also sees The Baptism of the Lord and the calling of the first disciples. To find out more about the assemblies, prayer and reflection that will be taking place in school this month, and to support you at home, please take a look at the latest newsletter from Ten:Ten <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Cold Weather and Winter Coats

As the colder weather has certainly made itself known, please can we remind families that all children need to come to school with a warm coat every day. Even on days when the sun is shining, temperatures can remain low, and children do still spend time outdoors during breaks. Ensuring they are wrapped up properly helps keep everyone comfortable, healthy and ready to learn. Thank you for helping us keep the children safe and warm during these winter months.

Reminder of Nursery Open Day – 29th January

Just a reminder of our upcoming Nursery Open Day. Please come along if you are thinking about a place for your child or spread the word to other families who may be interested. For more information, including how to apply, please visit our school website and click on the Nursery tab.

New Staff Member

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Pearce who has joined our school office team. Mrs Bohacs will now be working Monday-Wednesday each week with Mrs Pearce working at the front desk on Thursday and Friday. I know you will make her feel very welcome should you speak to her on the phone or meet her in the office.

Medical Tracker

Please make sure you read the letter that was sent out today informing you of our new electronic medical tracker which replaces the paper slips you receive if your child has needed medical attention in school. The new system will be in place from Monday.

February Half-Term Activity Camps

We are pleased to share that **February half-term activity camps** are being run by Aktiva and are now available to book. Please see the flyer attached for details and the message and link from Aktiva below if you are interested in booking a place:

We are excited to announce our **February Holiday Camps**, running from **Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February**. These camps are designed to provide engaging, fun, and enriching activities for children during the half-term break.

To make it easy for families to book, please find the links below:

- **Booking Platform:** [Aktiva Camps: Welcome](#)

Drop-Off, Driveway Safety and Parking

A gentle reminder to please take care when using the school driveway, particularly at busy drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not block the school entrance or park on the pedestrian crossing**, as this creates safety risks for our children and families. We really appreciate your cooperation and patience – keeping these areas clear helps ensure everyone can arrive and leave school safely.

Children's Commissioner Guide for Parents

We know that being a parent in the digital age can be a minefield. I wanted to share with you a new resource which has been published by the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza: [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#).

I have attached her full letter to headteachers below, so you can understand more about the context and intention. Even if you feel your child is too young at present for this to be relevant, it may well provide useful information for the future.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the new term, there is much to look forward to including a school trip for Year 5 next week. I wish you a happy and healthy start to the year and look forward to working closely together in the weeks ahead.

Best wishes, Mrs Machin

Dear Headteacher,

I am writing to inform you that I have recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](#)

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The last time I published a guide like this, *The things I wish my parents had known: Young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment*, in December 2021, it was to help parents and carers navigate difficult conversations about sexual harassment online. This guide is different in scope, in recognition of the complex, rapidly evolving landscape in which children – and parents – are navigating. It focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. My office visited schools to speak to teenagers, and spoke to my Youth Ambassadors and Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21st Century.

When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible.

As educators and leaders, you play a vital role in supporting parents and carers to navigate these challenges. Responses to my recent school survey show just how concerned school leaders are about their children's safety online, despite most already taking steps to limit or ban devices from the classroom. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online.

As parents, carers, and educators, our job must begin and end with our children's care and safety. It's what they expect and what they want from you.

As one young person told me: “Don’t be afraid to be firm... If you are worried [that] your child is seeing harmful content and you don’t know what they’re watching and it’s affecting the behaviour, just take it that you know best – they don’t.”

I hope this guide will be a useful resource for your school community, and I encourage you to share it with staff and parents where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children’s Commissioner



Learning at St Louis

Nursery

We have been learning: our word of the week, 'rescue'. We will be talking more about this word next week.

You can help at home by: by helping your child to put the word rescue into a sentence.

Reception

We have been learning: about the number zero. We know that zero means none.

You can help at home by: finding real life examples of zero.

Year 1

We have been learning: about mammals.

You can help at home by: asking your child about different mammals that we have as pets and those that live in in the wild.

Year 2

We have been learning: about money.

You can help at home by: finding money you have in the house and adding up the pounds and pennies.

Year 3

We have been learning: how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers (e.g. 25x5).

You can help at home by: practicing splitting 2 digit numbers, multiplying them and then adding the answers together.

Year 4

We have been learning: about sound this week in science and how sound is made by different musical instruments.

You can help at home by: asking how different instruments are played to make sounds.

Year 5

We have been learning: about the Beatitudes in RE.

You can help at home by: asking your child how they could live out one of the Beatitudes.

Year 6

We have been learning: how to preform different types of jumps in gymnastics.

You can help at home by: asking your child to demonstrate these jumps and tell you their top tips for performing them well.