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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

As we near the end of our first half term in school, I would like to thank you for your support and partnership in helping to make the children's full return to school as settled and enjoyable as possible. It is lovely to see children happy in their classrooms, enjoying being with their friends and working hard.

### Assessments

Children in Y2-6 have been taking baseline assessments in English and Maths so that we can see how well they are doing with the curriculum, which gaps to they have in their learning, and how we can support them to make progress. After half term parents will receive a summary of children's academic progress and how you can help and support your child at home. Normally at this time of year, schools would organise parent consultation meetings in order to share information and discuss how children have settled into their new year groups. Given the current situation, it is not possible to invite you into school but we will share this crucial information with you after half term and offer you the opportunity to discuss any concerns or questions with your child's teacher.

Staff in Reception and Year 1 have been completing baseline assessment work across the early years curriculum and with phonics. Again, parents will receive early information regarding children's progress next half term.

### Staff Changes

Mrs Troup and Mrs Bonarius moved on from St Charles at the end of September. Both members of staff have worked at St Charles for many years and have worked with parents and children in their roles as office manager and teaching assistant for the time you have been coming to St Charles. We thank them for their time and commitment to the life of St Charles and wish them every happiness and success for the future.

### Changes to PE Timetable

When the children return to school after the half term break their PE days will change. Classes will now have their PE lesson on one day each week and be given the opportunity for a longer session. Children should continue to come to dressed in their outdoor PE kit on the timetabled days.

Monday: Year 5 and 6

Tuesday: Year 3 and 4

Wednesday: Reception

Thursday: Year 1

Friday: Year 2

### After school clubs

I am delighted that after school clubs will be restarting after the half term break. Miss Cornbill has already sent home a club letter which details which clubs are available for the different year group bubbles. So far, there has been a great deal of interest from parents and children for all the clubs. Miss Cornbill will let you know which clubs your child has been allocated a place in for the new term.

### Breakfast Club

After half term, the breakfast club will operate from the **school hall**. Parents should use the same den entrance when coming to the club and take children through to the school hall. Breakfast club hours opens at 7.45am each day and costs £2 per child. Parents can book places through the school office and pay for this provision through the Parent mail.

## First Communion

Congratulations to the children who are making their First Holy Communion over the next few weeks at St Charles' Church: Ellie R, Jack R, Stewart S, Jacob W, Leo B, Melissa B, Isaac B, Max D, Eli F, Michalina G, Theo J, Aaron K, James L, Thomas L, Alfie O'S, James McD, Elliott M, Tyler W Katie-Anna W, Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

## Year 6 Transition Meeting with St John's

Tomorrow, we will hold a live stream transition meeting for Year 6 pupils with St John's School, Bishop Auckland. Mrs Byron, Headteacher of St John's will link up with the children in class and talk about moving on to St John's in September. Children will also have the chance to meet Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Transition together with current Year 7 pupils, and ask questions about moving to secondary school.

## Term Dates

Please note that the term dates for this academic year have not changed and are available on the school website for you to download. We are aware that there was a confusion for parents with an old version of our online calendar, indicating that there may be a PD Day on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please note, this is not the case and we have corrected this error. School closes tomorrow for half term break and reopens on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There are no PD Days planned for next half term. Tomorrow is a regular day in school and children should come dressed in their school uniform unless they have PE.

## Flu Vaccinations

Children will be offered their flu vaccination in school on 1<sup>st</sup> December. We encourage all parents to take part in this national programme of vaccination which is being offered to all pupils in Reception to Year 7. A separate letter will follow to all parents giving full details and how you can register your consent electronically.

## Coming onto school site

Can I remind all parents that there should only be **one adult** from each family coming onto the school site at drop off and pick up times. Please ensure you follow social distancing measures when coming on to the playground and exiting the site after collecting your child.

## School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** to take individual/siblings photographs. All children will be able to have their photograph taken and parents will be sent a proof that day and given the chance to order photographs online which will be available for the end of term. Given the current situation, it is not possible to invite babies/toddlers in for photographs this time.

Lastly, on behalf of the whole staff at St Charles, I hope you have a lovely and restful half term break.

With all good wishes,



Miss M. Tate  
Executive Headteacher