

# St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

## Believing Achieving Succeeding

Autumn 1, 2020

[www.stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk)



**Keeping Children Safe** – If you are worried or concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child out of school hours, please contact Kingston's Single Point Access (SPA) on 0208 547 5008. If you are worried about a child's immediate safety you should phone the Police on 999.

### Top Tip for Supporting your Child Online

Have a conversation and get to know what your child likes to do online and how going online makes them feel. Visit [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers) for conversation starters.

### Welcome back everyone!

It is so lovely to have all the children back in school. We hope that you have had a safe and peaceful Summer break and we look forward to a positive and healthy term. Thank you for your patience with our staggered starts and ends of the day which are already becoming smoother. May we remind families about following the social distancing guidelines and not gathering to chat near the school gates, as the safety of all depends on behaviour both inside and outside of school, remembering too, that you should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. We look forward to having Reception children join us for lessons next week and also welcome any new children that have joined St.

This year, we plan to use 'blended learning' within school. This expression means that the children will learn via electronic means as well as traditional classroom teaching. This would make it easier to switch totally to using google classroom and Tapestry (for Reception), in the event of school closure. In order to help the children access the resources they would need to learn from home effectively, we have emailed parents/carers a short Technology Survey and would ask that this is completed by next Sunday.

All staff received training from our attached Educational Psychologist in July in order to assist us in ensuring a smooth transition for the children back into school after so many weeks at home. We have also had training from **Relax Kids** last week looking at the impact the uncertainty of the pandemic could have on mental health and ways of providing support at school. The teachers will be using some of these techniques with their classes and all the classes will be receiving some direct support from Katy Huckfield, the mindfulness coach from Relax Kids.

We are delighted to report that over the summer break we have been able to lay an artificial grass on part of our school field. This will mean that the children will be able to use this part of the field for longer periods as often, in late Autumn, the ground has become so muddy and unusable.



**Thank you to FOSMPS who have funded and supported this initiative, as well as providing extra food boxes to families who needed them over the summer.**

### Emergency Telephone Numbers

Please can you ensure that your child's emergency contact numbers are kept up-to-date with the school office. We do require at least two numbers. If you need to update us with new contact details, please email the school office on [admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org)





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## House Colours

All pupils should wear the appropriate coloured t-shirt for PE lessons.

**Richmond- Red**

**Kingston-Blue**

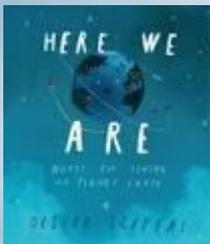
**Ewell – Yellow**

**Hampton - Green**

## Year Group Meetings

These will be sent digitally this year due to the Covid restrictions.

For the next two weeks, the whole school will be reading '**Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth**' by **Oliver Jeffers**. Each year group will be studying aspects of the book and exploring their reactions to it through art, drama and PSHE as well as a number of written outcomes including a final piece that all the school will be involved in.



We have produced a presentation to support the children returning to school which you may find helpful. Please look under the 'Covid-19' tab on our website.

## Reminders

For the time being, we have asked that bikes and scooters used to travel to school are taken home and not kept on site. We shall review this after the half-term break.

May we remind you that NUTS are not allowed in the school premises at any time. This includes all snack bars such as Trackers which contain nuts and any Nutella chocolate spread.

Please do not give sweets out on a birthday as we are trying to reinforce our healthy eating strategy. Perhaps consider a fruit option or donating a book for the class library.



## Reading Tips- Food for thought!

**Reading does for the mind what food does for the body.**

As a reader, you need to treat what you read like a balanced diet. You need to balance your rich, nutritious foods (classic novels, information texts, children's newspapers, poetry, narratives that will challenge and you will learn from) with your 'junk' foods (books that entertain you, but may not necessarily teach you anything or challenge you with vocabulary) so that you get a balanced diet.

