



Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Ware Road, Tonwell, Herts, SG12 0HN

Tel: 01920 462894

E-mail: admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman



'Knowing each child, growing each child, in God's love'

Friday 25th September

Christian Value: RESPECT

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy fortnight at school and the children have continued to settle in well with their new routines and learning. This week, I have visited all classes and have been very impressed at how well the children are focussing in lessons and being more independent in their learning.

Our school council are working on a project to develop an outdoor reflection area as our popular indoor one is temporarily out of use. We hope that the area will give everyone a quiet and beautiful area of the school playground where they can relax and reflect. We hope this will be good to support our children's mental health and wellbeing. School council have been busy planting a sensory garden. They would like to add bird feeders and wind chimes. If any families have any items they would be able to donate, school council would be very grateful.

Thank you to those of you who joined me for online parent forum last week. The minutes of the meeting can be found in the newsletter and are available on our website under Parent Information/Parent Forum.

Please remember that although we cannot meet with you face-to-face, staff are here to support you. Please phone or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bridgman

Safeguarding and Online Safety

Online safety is always important for safeguarding our children but is even more paramount in the current climate as there is, unfortunately, a possibility that children could be asked to do more remote online learning if the school had a confirmed case. I have included a copy of our school online safety rules at the end of the newsletter and would appreciate it if you could speak to your child about them at an age appropriate level.

We continue to ask that children bring in the minimum amount of equipment to school that is necessary (water bottle, coat, lunch box, snack, reading diary). We appreciate that for some children, this is difficult to carry. If this is the case for your child, they are permitted to bring the equipment in a small school bag. Please remember that no toys or other items from home are allowed in school at the moment.

Staffing

Mrs Robinson-Moore has made the decision to spend more time at home with baby Lizzie and sadly will not be returning to Tonwell following her maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best for the future. Good news is that Mrs Wagner will be staying to continue to teach Ash class. We feel very fortunate to have Mrs Wagner staying at our school – she loves working with the children in Ash class and is a great addition to our team here at Tonwell.

F.O.T.

Our Friends of Tonwell have updated their name to Tonwell PTA. They would like to share a big thank you to Taylor's nan for her kind and creative donations to the school. Tonwell PTA are busily planning fundraising activities ready for Christmas. There will be more information to follow...

Hudnall Park

A reminder that the first instalment of £30 for Y4-6 Hudnall Park trip is due on Monday 28th September please.



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Key Dates for autumn term:

Please note that these may be subject to change and some activities will be risk assessed nearer the time to check they can still go ahead.

Thursday 1 st October	Start of Black History Month
Friday 9 th October	Harvest Worship for children (children will join an online Harvest worship with schools from the diocese)
Tuesday 13 th October	Parent Consultations (details and timings TBC)
Friday 23 rd October	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 rd November	7.30pm Parent Forum via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 10 th November	BMX Growth Mindset day in school
Friday 13 th November	2pm SEND Coffee Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Thursday 26 th November	Artshed workshops in school
Monday 30 th November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 8 th December	Christmas Service for children (if we are able to invite parents, we will)
Friday 18 th December	1.15pm End of Term

Parent Forum Minutes

Tuesday 15th September 7.30pm via MS Teams

New Curriculum

- Mrs Bridgman explained that the staff have been working on updating the school curriculum. This was one of the key priorities for improvement from Ofsted. The curriculum is now more progressive and clearly planned across the school for every subject.
- We have a new scheme of work for teaching computing and plans to reintroduce some specialist music teaching later in the year.
- Parents received Curriculum Newsletters and these can be found on the school website
- All of the school's curriculum intent documents are also on the website. These documents set out what will be taught and when for each subject across the school. There is also a document for each class for 2020-21 setting out what the children will learn across the year. <https://www.tonwell.herts.sch.uk/page-long-term-curriculum-intent-statements-77/>
- Mrs Bridgman shared some examples and parents agreed that the information would be helpful.

Plan for catch-up learning

- Class teachers are using a programme called 'Back on Track' for English and maths to support children to catch up and fill any gaps in learning for these key subjects.
- Rather than do intensive assessments in September with formal tests, the programme focuses on revisiting an area of learning, then carrying out assessments through observations and mini quizzes and games so that this can inform planning and teaching.
- Government investment in tutoring and catch-up learning is expected in autumn half term 2. This is good as it should allow children to settle back into school life and for teachers to assess their needs so that interventions can be delivered accordingly.

Remote Learning Plans

- By the end of September, schools are expected to have a plan in place to enable them to switch from on site to remote learning if needed.
- Mrs Bridgman shared feedback from the parent survey. The vast majority of parents would like a mixture of pen/pencil and online activities. Many families have Internet access but children would only have access to a laptop for part of the day. A significant number of children do not have access to the internet and a laptop, especially where there are two children.
- Parents attending the meeting expressed a wish for more live teaching online. They also said that they would like more activities and learning that children could do independently without too much adult input and supervision. They also made the point that for some children the tasks needed to be clearly differentiated for independence (e.g. younger/SEND).

ACTION: Mrs Bridgman to feed back parent views to class teachers to consider for remote learning planning.



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My online safety rules

I will only use school IT equipment for activities agreed by school staff.

I will not use my personal email address or other personal accounts in school.

I will not sign up for any online service on school devices unless this is an agreed part of a school project approved by my teacher and agreed by my parent/carer.

I will only open email attachments if it has been approved by a member of school staff in school or a parent/carer out of school.

In school I will only open or delete my files when told by a member of staff.

I will not tell anyone other than my parents/carers my passwords. I will not use other people's usernames or passwords to pretend to be them online.

I will make sure that all online contact I make is responsible, polite and sensible. I will be kind and respectful at all times.

If I come across anything upsetting, unpleasant or nasty, or anything that makes me feel unsafe, I will tell my teacher or my parent/carer immediately.

If someone says, asks or posts about me anything upsetting, unpleasant or nasty, or anything that makes me feel unsafe, I will not reply. I will tell my teacher or my parent/carer immediately.

I will not give out my own or other people's personal information, including: name, phone number, home address, interests, schools or clubs. I will tell my teacher or parent/carer if anyone asks me online for personal information.

Uploading or sending my image (photographs, videos, live streaming) online puts me at risk. I will always seek permission from my teacher or parent/carer if I wish to do this. I will not take, share or upload any image of anyone else without their permission and also, if they are a child, without their parent's/carer's permission.

Even if I have permission, I will not upload any images, videos, sounds or words that **could** upset, now or in the future, any member of the school community, as this is cyberbullying.

I understand that some people on the internet are not who they say they are and some people are not safe to be in contact with. I will not arrange to meet someone I only know on the internet. If someone asks to meet me, I will not reply to them and I will tell a teacher or a parent/carer immediately.

I understand that everything I do or receive online can be traced now and in the future. I know it is important to build a good online reputation.

I understand that some personal devices are allowed in school and some are not, and I will follow the rules. I will not assume that new devices can be brought into school without getting permission.

I understand my behaviour in the virtual classroom (Microsoft Teams) should mirror that in the physical classroom.



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I will not lie about my age in order to access games, apps or social networks that are for older people as this will put me at risk.

I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe now and in the future. If I break the rules my teachers will look into it and may need to take action.