

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Dear Parents,

**Welcome back to a new and exciting term.** I hope you have all kept safe over the past few weeks and were able to enjoy the festive season. We have fingers and toes crossed, hoping that this will be a calm, COVID-19 -free term. I am aware that over Christmas, some pupils, and staff were impacted by COVID. We will do our absolute best to keep everything running smoothly; however, staff absence and with few supply teachers able to cover, schools in Jersey are finding Covid very challenging.

Thank you for your kind, encouraging words, which are frequently shared when I see you outside or through emails. Thank you for your thoughtful Christmas gifts and your interested comments in everything we do as a school.

We hope you enjoyed watching our performances “live” and on Google Classroom. Thank you, Mr. Le Rossignol and Mrs. Gibbons, for recording these and all the staff who were involved in putting everything together. On the last day of the Autumn Term, KS2 were able to pop across to the church and sing a couple of Carols and share a few Christmas thoughts. This very short Christmas celebration was a lovely end to our term.

During the Christmas holidays, all the staff have worked hard to plan a broad, challenging curriculum. This will support our pupils’ development as independent, interested, motivated learners. Our children are a joy to teach. Thank-you staff, for your readiness to support the children and the school in so many ways – as seen recently, through your untiring commitment to the school – especially with Deco Day, Christmas Productions and other Christmas/school activities. Recently, a visitor to St John’s shared this comment about our school: She said: “**I have been in a LOT of schools in my time – all around the UK, and I was really blown away by how great St John’s School is.**” This is a sentiment many visitors share when they visit St John’s; however, it is always lovely to hear.

In the next few days, staff will send out their curriculum letters. These explain each year groups’ learning this term. The learning has been planned clearly and carefully, encouraging our children to engage with inquiry skills, questioning opportunities, decision-making tasks, as well as provide planned time for feedback/reflection, group learning and thinking skills. These are all strengths of our school.

Some **key dates** for this term – **Spring Term, 2022** – if COVID-19 permits. **Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March between 3:15 -5:30 pm and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 3:15 -5:30 pm. These will probably take place online.** Our Half Term holiday will begin at **3:00 pm on Friday 18th February**. Everyone will return to school on **Monday 28th February at 8:45 a.m.** We will break up on **Friday April 8th at 3:00 pm. Inset for our staff will be Monday April 25th and Summer Term for pupils will begin on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 8:45 am.**

**Reminders-** with the risk of spreading **COVID-19**, please keep children off if they have a temperature, persistent cough or lack of taste or smell. Please be aware of the different **bugs and illnesses** about too and keep children off school for 48 hours if they have been sick or have diarrhoea. If they return to school too soon, germs will spread, and more children and staff will become ill. We **will send** children home, who return to school too quickly! Please continue to take care with dropping off and picking up your children at beginning and the end of the day (especially as the morning and evenings are quite dark).

Please remain **socially distanced** when you drop your children off at the beginning of the day and picking them up at the conclusion of the day. **Please vacate** the school grounds as quickly as possible.

Rue Gombrette is **15 MPH**. The main road is very dangerous, so please can children cross with Mr Fallaize and wait for him to tell them it is safe to cross. Thank you.

Hoping that 2022 sees our school return to pre-COVID-19 normality. 😊

Trudie De La Haye – January 2022