



#ACANDOSCHOOL

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

WOW! What a strange 5 months we have all had! We hope everyone is fit and well. We are all looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school over the next week. We can reassure you that every possible measure has been put in place in line with the Local Authority and Department for Education guidelines. These continue to change regularly and we adapt, modify and prepare further to ensure the safety of our school community is paramount.

As we begin to adjust to the new 'normal' we wanted to take the opportunity again to thank you all for your support, commitment and hard work in these challenging times. As a school we have all of our permanent staff members back to work and we have established new ways of working in order to protect your child, your family, ourselves and our families.

Miss Meacham sent out lots of information prior to the summer break outlining some of the changes. We hope you have had an opportunity to read through this, share this with your child and complete the relevant paperwork required.

There continues to be lots of new information for me to share with you. So, I thought I would start in this newsletter with our behaviour policy changes and also our communication strategy between home and school.



### **Liaison between home and school**

Working in partnership and unison is going to be the biggest success in your child's progress. We need to be singing off the same hymn sheet! COVID-19 has shaken things up! In the past we have tolerated a high level of physical aggression, verbal abuse and high risk behaviour such as spitting, biting etc. We can no longer accept this. Whilst we may understand some of the reasons why children display these behaviours, we will be calling on parents to support us! This does not mean we are going to instantly exclude your child but it does mean we want your support. We can not have staff getting spat at, hurt or verbally abused persistently!

Staff will have to wear PPE which include visors and masks when dealing with high risk incidents. We are aiming to do everything we can to avoid this but we do have a duty to protect everyone. If incidents are persistent, ongoing and put others at significant risk. Parents / Carers will be called to support us. This means attending a meeting with your child to review their behaviour plan, risk assessment and positive handling plan.

## Daily Reporting Home and the new behaviour system

We will no longer be sending home school diaries home for COVID reasons. Therefore, every parent needs to be accessing **CLASS DOJO daily**. If they are unable to use this they will send a message via our Parent App.

After school each day the teacher will send you one message. It will outline the summary of the day. If you wish to discuss further you need to ring the school. If you choose to reply the teacher is not obliged and will not engage in a messaging conversation. They will ask you to arrange a call to school to discuss further.

We have also removed our 'points' system. This is because the children who attended in the summer term had a new system in place which worked successfully for them in their 'bubbles'. Staff have consulted during training and feel this system will support children in their integration back to school life.

Each child will earn 'tokens' through the day for showing positive behaviours e.g. respect, hard work, positive attitude, achieving their behaviour targets, safety etc. The class teacher will state how many tokens have been earned and the key messages for the day. For serious incidents we will always call you and discuss verbally, this may require to be followed up with a meeting.

A Good Day is:	Amber day	Red day
I have earned 20+ daily tokens and used my strategies for the majority of the day. I have been able to listen to reminders and manage my behaviour and my learning safely.	I have earned less than 20 daily tokens. For most of the day I have managed my behaviour and learning safely. However, adults have needed to tell me to take time a few times and I have needed time out of class. I have caught up with my learning and repaired with everyone.	I have struggled to earn daily tokens today for following the 3 school rules. I have not used my strategies and I have made it unsafe for me and others around me.

If you earn <b>20 - 25</b> tokens day – a 'good' day; following all SS school rules.	1 item from the reward box
<b>26 – 40</b> tokens a day – above and beyond throughout the day	2 items from the reward box
<b>40+</b> tokens a day – safe, good choices e.g. when it would have been <b>crucial</b> to follow adult instructions	3 items from the reward box

As you can see this all replaces the daily points and bonus points systems.

In line with all of the above, parents will receive a weekly report on their child's attitude and behaviour in school. Again, this is to be used to inform planning their child's provision, support and to work closely between home and school.

If a child is having a high level of red days parents/ carers will be asked to attend a review with the child to discuss the behaviour and plan a way forward.

Example



**Weekly report to Parents:** *This is a report on your child's progress this week on how they have been able to follow our 3 school rules and manage their individual behaviour target safely. Any serious incidents (SI) will have been dealt with separately with you and recorded appropriately; with next steps and strategies in place as required.*

Week beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ PUPIL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

My Behaviour Target is: \_\_\_\_\_

These are the strategies on my behaviour passport: \_\_\_\_\_

A Good Day is:	Amber day	Red day
I have earned 20+ daily tokens and used my strategies for the majority of the day. I have been able to listen to reminders and manage my behaviour and my learning safely.	I have earned less than 20 daily tokens. For most of the day I have managed my behaviour and learning safely. However adults have needed to tell me to take time a few times and I have needed time out of class. I have caught up with my learning and repaired with everyone.	I have struggled to earn daily tokens today for following the 3 school rules. I have not used my strategies and I have made it unsafe for me and others around me.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Class teacher comments: \_\_\_\_\_

I appreciate that we are sending out lots of new information. On Monday we will send out a curriculum, teaching and learning update. As we progress into the term we will continue to aim to send a weekly newsletter out and we are also looking to hold some online parent support group sessions to help to keep you informed of our new policies, procedures and to keep in touch with you.

The last thing I have to emphasise is our illness procedures. Due to the current situation we need all parents to be vigilant. If your child is displaying any signs of illness we need you to take extra precautions. A high temperature, persistent cough and loss of taste and smell are all indicators of COVID-19. However, all medical reports state that it can present differently in children. We are aware the risk of child to adult transmission is low however want to take every precaution possible to protect your child, your family, our staff and our families. Therefore, if you suspect your child is under the weather – stay at home, monitor them, get a test if needed and support everyone in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

Take Care, Keep Safe

Kindest Regards,

On behalf of the whole team of staff at Stepping Stones School,

Mrs Dodd (Head teacher)