



# St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Revd. Daniel Norris MBA NPQH

Head of School: Mrs. Elizabeth Walton BA (Hons) PGCE

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

## Thank You

As we come to the end of what has been an extremely unusual and challenging school year, I would like to thank parents and carers for their support, patience and understanding as we have responded together to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. Every member of our community has been impacted in some way, whether this has been in changed routines, periods of self-isolation, working at home, supporting learning at home, embracing new technology, or caring for loved ones. Education at school has been disrupted for children across the world and it has only been possible to safely open our school to a restricted number of children. Despite all of this it has been a source of great encouragement to hear about and to see learning taking place in homes and to hear news of how you are. We appreciate that this has been different for each household. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school in September and will be working hard to support them as together we move forward into what we hope will be a period of greater certainty. I hope that all families will be able to take full advantage of the easing of lockdown measures over the summer and to safely enjoy the summer break.

## Staff News

Mrs Walton, who has been Head of School since the opening of St Jérôme School in 2016, will be taking a sabbatical during the academic year 2020-21. During this period, I will be leading the school on a full-time basis and will be ably supported by Mrs Cox and Mme Chadier who will be supporting me as Acting Deputy Headteachers alongside our existing phase leaders Mrs Jardella (Early Years), Mrs Dear (Years 1 and 2) and Mrs Clarke (Years 3 and 4). Together we will be overseeing the arrangements for the wider reopening of our school, and ensuring that all children are able to catch up with their learning and that the school continues to grow and develop as it expands.

We are extremely sad to be saying goodbye at the end of this term to Mme Fritz, who has been a highly valued bilingual teaching assistant since our school opened in 2016. Mme Fritz has supported the children's learning of French and will be particularly fondly remembered for leading Godly Play sessions that were enjoyed by children across our school. Mme Fritz is relocating to France and we wish her and her family well for the future.

We are delighted that Mme Mills, who is well known to many at St Jérôme School, will be officially joining our teaching team to teach in Year 3 next year with Mrs Clarke. She is extremely passionate about ensuring all children in Year 3 receive high quality learning in both English and French.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome Mr Spiller to our teaching team in September, to teach in Year 4. Mr Spiller is an experienced teacher who is a specialist in computing and digital learning and he will lead this area across the school. He is a certified google classroom trainer and has been leading the provision of online learning at his current school during the coronavirus pandemic. He brings a wealth of experience to the team and will be teaching alongside Mr Wade in Year 4.

### **Transition and Home Learning**

Due to the current restrictions it has not been possible to operate our usual 'meet your new class and teacher' meetings. Children will shortly receive a letter by email from their new class teacher with a link to a virtual welcome video on the school website. Please do share this with your children. As a small school, all children will be familiar with our existing teaching team and I know will enjoy getting to know those who are new.

The home learning resources currently on the school website will remain in place during the summer holiday should families wish to revisit or use any of the resources. Google classrooms will close for maintenance during the summer period and new classrooms will be created ready for September. Class teachers will be including in their letters some learning ideas to spark curiosity about the curriculum topics for the coming term.

### **Arrangements for September**

I will write to you with further details regarding full reopening in the week prior to our planned start of term (week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> August). Please do check your emails at that time for important updates. At this stage, we expect all children (other than those joining

Reception for the first time) to return to school on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Government guidance, informed by Public Health England advice, will be fully in place and this is likely to include staggered start and end times for each year group to enable children and parents to arrive and leave school respecting social distancing. Children should wear full school uniform and school meals will be available as normal. Further details of meal options and a reminder about how these can be ordered and paid for (Year 3 and 4) will also be sent to you. It is our intention to reopen breakfast and afterschool clubs from 7<sup>th</sup> September and parents who wish to use these services will be asked to book them online during the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> August in order that effective staffing arrangements can be put in place.

I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing summer break and I look forward to all the exciting opportunities of the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Norris', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Revd Daniel Norris  
Executive Headteacher