# Spring Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of spring term is here and Holy Week and Easter Sunday approach - a time of great sadness followed by a time of great joy and hope. How similar to the spring term we have experienced but, hope springs eternal and we have much to be thankful for and to look forward to.

After a difficult period, the pupils have returned and it is a joy to have them back in school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and cooperation during lock down and the full reopening. We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of our pupils and they may be experiencing a variety of emotions. Some pupils may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and so, be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety. Judging from the last three weeks most were keen and ready to return to school. Whatever the experience, teachers are attuned to the emotional needs of their pupils. Time has been set aside within the school day for children to talk and share their experiences of lockdown and for teachers to provide clear information about the situation.

The teaching and support staff also have strong plans to ensure the pupils continue to get back on track with their learning. We believe that talk of ‘catch up’ can have a negative effect. It implies rushing through a crowded scheme of work prioritising a teaching, rather than a learning, agenda. This can be ineffective and demotivating. Instead, we will focus on securing pupils’ understanding in key topics which prepare the way for future learning. Staff will prioritise this key learning and address the gaps in pupils’ knowledge and skills so that by the summer the children are ready to progress to the next stage in their learning.

**Parent Consultations**

We were unable to offer parent consultation evenings this term. However, we intend to hold our second round of parent consultations in the week beginning May 10th. With the cooperation of the teaching staff we hope these will again be held face-to-face, with some Covid19 related precautions. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

**Staffing**

After the departure of Mrs Wastell, we have restructured the school office. Mrs Salem has been recruited as School Business Manager and Mrs Flint has been appointed as the School Office Manager. Mrs Salem is an experienced School Business Manager who has joined from a local St Alban’s school. Her appointment commences on 12th April and we must thank Mrs Flint for ‘going the extra mile’ while operating the school office on her own over the last few months. We welcome Mrs Salem to our community and wish both her and Mrs Flint the very best in their new roles.

**Governors**

I informed you, in a bulletin earlier this year, of the appointment of three new parent governors. We also had a change to the Chair and Vice-chair of governors. Therefore, I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind you of our list of governors.

Mr Dominic Bedford Head teacher governor

Mr Edward Behan Foundation governor

Mrs Barbara Bliss Clerk to the governors

Mrs Nicola Bliss Parent governor

Mr Pearse Broderick Foundation governor

Mrs Alison Brown Parent governor

Mrs Eleanor Christie Foundation governor

Mrs Jackie Harrison Foundation governor and Vice chair

Mr Robin King Staff governor

Mr Colin Madders Parent governor

Ms Martha Moroney Foundation governor and Chair

Mrs Maureen Roe Foundation governor

Mr Alex Sallis Associate Member

Mr Dominic Tang Local Authority Governor

Mr William Tominey Foundation governor

**Relationship, sex and health education (RSHE)**

Thank you to those in our community who responded to the consultation on RSHE. Mrs Butterworth has volunteered a great deal of time above her support role to deliver a policy and a curriculum plan for RSHE. We will begin the delivery of this statutory curriculum strand in April.

**Parents’ forum**

This is an important channel of communication between parents and the school. Unfortunately, it has been postponed during Covid19. It is our intention to restart the meetings with the class representatives as soon as restrictions are sufficiently lifted.

**The PTA**

The PTA have continued to operate for the benefit of our community and the pupils. Please consult their pages on the website for ways you can help support their vital work. <https://stadrians.herts.sch.uk/category/pta/>

Currently the PTA are looking for a new Chair and Secretary. These roles can be carried out by individuals or as shared positions. If we are unable to fill these roles it will have serious impact on the ability to operate the PTA as a charity.

**Westminster Mass**

This morning the pupils joined with other schools across the diocese to celebrate an end of term mass. It was wonderful to all be together albeit remotely.

**School reopens** for the start of the summer term on Monday 12th April 2021.

Thank you for your continued support of all we do at St. Adrian’s. Have a safe and restful Easter break.

Best wishes,

Dominic Bedford

**Future dates for your diary:**

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| 12th April – Start of term  21st April - School photos  23rd April – Year 1 assembly  30th April - Year 4 assembly  Week beginning 10th May – Parent consultations  17th May - Isle of Wight Trip subject to pending decisions to be made by the government  21st May - Year 3 assembly  31st May – 4th June half-term  18th June - Year 2 assembly  2nd July – Reception assembly  13th July – Year 6 production - TBC  15th July – Year 6 leavers’ mass - TBC  16th July – Last day of term |