



# St Christopher Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I very much hope that you all had a wonderful summer. As always it has been lovely seeing the children return to school. The children look incredibly smart - I do not underestimate how challenging it is getting uniform sorted for the start of the school year, especially for those of you with more than one child. Thank you so much for your support.

### School Site

Over the summer we had a number of contractors in school, and this resulted in us being fairly busy. However, it was worth it as we now have five hundred solar panels on the school roof generating electricity to reduce our carbon footprint and of course our electricity bills. We also have had some new doors and windows fitted to replace any remaining old metal windows and doors. The new doors and windows look fabulous and will bring great benefit in the colder months. We have also had smart valves fitted to our school radiators and these will enable us to electronically control our heating across school and to top it off we had our huge school kitchen painted – it looks so much brighter and fresher.

I have talked to the children about the works in our zoom assembly and lots of them were excited about the energy saving work. This generation are rightly keen to protect our planet. It is so good that our 1950's building has benefitted from the additional funding.

### Playpals

I was delighted when I was coming into school during the summer to see so many children enjoying some of the holiday club activities that Playpals team had planned. I was fortunate enough have visited when the ice cream van arrived! I want to thank all those parents for choosing our school for summer childcare and say a huge thank you to our Playpals staff – some of them gave up holiday days to help. As always, we are already planning October half term club.

### Staff

Our staff worked really hard over the summer in setting up classrooms and preparing themselves for the full return of children. We have welcomed some new staff. Mrs Badesha our School Business Manager, Miss Walsh our new Clerical officer, Miss Greenway and Mrs Warwick-Oliver who are joining the lunchtime team and Miss Hussain who has joined the Playpals team.

### Pandemic

Like you I am enjoying some of the old freedoms back that we knew as normality before the pandemic. It is lovely to see lots of aspects of school return to usual routines. As expected, we have already started to have some pupils test positive for COVID. Some of these families identified the virus initially by using lateral flow tests and then isolated. By doing this, the families have potentially prevented further transmission of the virus in school.

We do have to report the number of positive cases to the council, and should schools have a number of cases, public health can become involved and implement additional restrictions, that in the worse- case scenario could include closing year groups. We must avoid this and so I urge everyone to continue with lateral flow tests and to take PCR tests when requested as this will enable all the children to keep coming to school.

### PE Kits

I am thrilled with the majority of children who are coming into school wearing the full school PE kit on PE day. I just want to reiterate that pupils must wear either the official PE school kit (the link can be found on the school website) or a **plain** version of this. Ideally this should be a white t shirt, royal blue jumper, grey joggers/leggings/shorts and dark appropriate trainers. Black/navy blue are acceptable alternatives if already purchased providing they are not named. I am checking PE KITS every day this week and I will continue to do this because it is important that everyone follows the guidance. It is incredibly unfair if children and parents have followed the guidance and then others are not.

### New Starters

One of the highlights over the last couple of weeks has been seeing some of the very youngest children arrive for their first days either in Nursery or in Reception. They've come into school confidently and blown us away with how brave they have been inside school having waved off parents. We have new families in other year groups too. Once again, we are privileged to welcome such lovely families and we are very much looking forward to working with these children and their families and welcome them into the community at St Christopher.

### Timings

Following my email on Thursday, the slight adjustment on the key stage two playground at home time has indeed worked allowing us to be spread out more evenly across the playground. The timings and the arrangements therefore seem to be working well. Thank- you all for responding so quickly to this and working with us to get our systems as safe as we can be.

I feel very positive about the year ahead and I am looking forward to ensuring your child is happy, well educated and benefits from some great opportunities and experiences.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Robinson  
Headteacher BEd Hons. NPQH