

## STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

**NEWSLETTER****SCHOOL NEWS****MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

Dear Parents and Carers

**“Children always come first. They are our future.”**

During this period it is so wonderful to have things that make us smile and remind us of the experiences that we value so much at school; I am pleased to say that there have been many highlights this week: seeing your VE day celebrations, our staff video message and our wonderful on-going home learning. It was fabulous to have a personal message from Harry Hill – it lifted all of our spirits!

We are really missing you and are now looking forward to welcoming back some of you soon. As I have shared with you we are currently open for key worker children and plan to potentially re-open to Years R, 1 and 6 from 1 June. It is essential that all stakeholders have opportunities to work with us in such extraordinary circumstances. Thank you to those parents who joined our Zoom Parent Forum meetings this week. We valued the opportunity to listen to your concerns and answer your questions – we have included some of the highlights. Staff and governors will continue to finalise arrangements which we will share early next week. This will be subject to change if there are any significant announcements next week.

Thank you to those who have indicated that your children are returning if we re-open on 1 June. If you have not yet completed this please do so as this is essential for our planning to ensure the safety for all children and staff.

As we all navigate our way through this period can I thank you for your on-going support.

Miss Davenport  
Headteacher

**PARENT FORUM FEEDBACK**

Thank you to parents who were able to attend our first Parent Forum via Zoom! As always your views are truly valued as they allow us to further improve the quality of education at our school. Thank you for your thoughtful feedback and ideas as we plan ahead for 1 June. Please see below some of the comments raised yesterday and how we responded.

You asked	Our response
That we explore provision of online learning via video lessons to engage children who are feeling isolated.	We do not currently have the systems in place for video lessons, but not knowing how long Covid restrictions will be in place, the school is exploring better use of technology for home learning.
Future provision of home learning for children who are not returning to school at this stage?	Home learning will be the same as that taught to children in school. The intention is not to teach new concepts at this point in time, but this will be subject to review.
How is the issue of younger children keeping to social distancing rules going to work in practice and what other measures will be in place to ensure the safety of the children?	We will be following government guidance to ensure that children are encouraged to keep their distance and they will be supervised by an adult at all times to enforce this. The guidance recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms;</li> </ul>

You asked	Our response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices;</li> <li>▪ regular cleaning of settings; and</li> <li>▪ minimising contact and mixing.</li> </ul> <p>The following measures will be in place from 1 June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Class sizes will be kept to a maximum of 15 children and children will not mix outside their group. Movement around the building will be discouraged.</li> <li>▪ Children will have their own table and resources and all books will remain at school.</li> <li>▪ Breaks and lunchtime will be staggered to allow for distancing.</li> <li>▪ Should a child present with symptoms, SLT will be advised immediately, the child will be taken to the designated safe place and the parent will be contacted to collect their child without delay. Parents should communicate clearly with school if their child suffers with asthma and has an asthma-related cough.</li> <li>▪ Parents will not be permitted onto the school site other than for the purpose of dropping off and picking up their child. The school office will remain closed to visitors: email or telephone as currently. Drop off and pick up times will be staggered for individual year groups.</li> </ul>
How is the school going to prepare the children and what can parents do to help?	The well-being of the children will be the main focus. There will be opportunities to share and talk about worries and concerns and we have lots of books to help them adjust. It is planned that children will return part-time initially.
What if I decide not to send my child into school from 1 June?	Parents must make their own judgement about sending their child to school. No action will be taken if a family decides that their child should continue to learn from home.
Will children be able to stay with their current teacher next year?	Where possible, classes will transition in September with their current class teacher but where this is not feasible the Teaching Assistant will move up with the class.

## VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – WEBSITE BLOG



Teachers and staff really enjoyed seeing some of your photos celebrating VE Day last Friday. If you haven't already had a chance to look, we have a Blog on the website where we shared your photos: <https://www.staplehurstschool.co.uk/pupil-ezone/events-blog/item/80-ve-day-celebrations>

# CURRICULUM NEWS

## HOME LEARNING

Well done to all of our pupils for your effort and resilience – keep up the good work at home with these helpful links to remind you how to plan your day:

- [Planning your day](#)
- [Daily Routines during school closures](#)

## NEW MUSIC PLATFORM - YUMU

Over the next week your teachers will be emailing out a new login for a music platform called Yumu. There is a unit of learning set up for you full of great music, interactive games and fun. In addition, if anybody has an instrument at home and wishes to get some online tuition, please email your class teacher. We have courses available through Yumu for recorders, violins, keyboards, djembe drums and glockenspiels. Enjoy!

## CELEBRATION AWARDS

This week we are proud to celebrate the learning and achievements of:

EYD	Ethan for trying so hard with his reading this week. Braxton for trying hard with all of his home learning activities. Bertie for making a fantastic brick house out of cake!
EYG	Cora for excellent maths challenge home learning. Jakaya for learning so many new skills, such as cooking and tying his shoe laces. Ryan for his fabulous Little Red Riding Hood puppet show.
1RS	Gabriel, Ameilia and Poppy for showing determination in their home learning.
1KS	Luca for consistently working hard on all tasks.
2H	Rae, for working hard on Literacy and Maths activities on purple mash. Emilia, for her enthusiasm toward pride challenges and working really hard on her maths. Paige, for her creative poetry reading and her effort in practising four operations. Oliver, for channelling Michael Rosen's creative style in his poetry and his commitment to learning. Isabelle, for her confident poetry recital and for using Charanga to enjoy and practise music.
2O	Ivy for completing her home learning to a high standard and putting in 100% effort into all of her activities. Ewan for completing many PRIDE challenges including baking a delicious banana bread!
3C	William for making the most of this hard time by completing all his home learning, completing art projects, building an amazing aqueduct and keeping a super lockdown diary. Immy for logging on to complete her learning every day and working incredibly hard. Katie for showing resilience and ingenuity with the completion of her work. Matthew for showing enthusiasm for his home learning and doing his best.
3F	Betsy for her fabulous home learning with her sister. Matilda for a really positive attitude to her learning.
4H	Hannah and Amelie for showing extra enthusiasm in their work this past week. The hard work has really paid off!
4S	Lylah for working so well to produce some high quality writing in Literacy. Charlie for his great effort in all home learning, but especially writing. Amie for great work in all areas of home learning.
5C	Charlie for showing a great attitude towards his home learning.
5F	Holly and Callum for their very well written and informative profiles on William Shakespeare. Elsa for always showing kindness towards others.

6L Charlotte for her beautifully positive attitude towards home learning! She has been keen to talk about her home learning and how much she is enjoying it!

6T Josh and Beth for having a fantastic positive attitude to their home learning and taking an independent and mature approach to the challenges that they face.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL SITE

This week we were thrilled to share two videos with you; one from former pupil Harry Hill and the other a message from all the staff to show how much we are missing our pupils and families. The response to both has been amazing and we thank you for your kind words of support.



We have had some brilliant artists in school this week. Look at these amazing Picasso inspired 3D faces made by the key worker children. And, today was beautifully sunny at Staplehurst School. Since we can't go to the beach, the key worker children decided to imagine their very own 'Staplehurst-on-Sea'. We even enjoyed delicious ice-creams – and not a pesky seagull in sight!



## THANK A TEACHER DAY

Wednesday, 20 May is National Thank A Teacher Day. It will mark a moment when we, as a nation, can come together to say thank you to teachers across the country who are making a difference not only now during these unprecedented times, but every day of the year. The Teaching Awards Trust are asking as many people as possible to share their message of thanks, ideally in a video clip leading up to the day. This will be in an expression of their choosing – singing a song/miming to a song of thanks to their teacher, writing and/or reciting a poem, or sharing a picture of a drawing. For more information visit <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-ateacher-day>

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURES

If you have experienced a change in family circumstance, that could now make your family eligible for Free School Meals, fill in the form at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>. It's quick and easy and, if you qualify, you will be added to our list to receive supermarket vouchers.