

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER
2020



**St Osmund's
Middle School**
A Church of England Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a newsletter update in addition to the more regular updates on our school Facebook page. We are very pleased to be back in school and teaching face to face. We hope that you have found everything you need in recent mailings, including the guidance on homework and also Covid 19 symptoms. A few of our students have been dealing with Covid-based anxiety or some anxiety about being back in school routines; in the main we are now settled and learning well, whilst continuing to support any quite understandable anxiety on an individual basis.

Trips in 2021

We know that all of our year groups look forward to their residential. We have pencilled in dates as per the key dates sheet with our trip providers. Week commencing 24th May for Year 7, 21st June for Year 5, 28th June for Year 6 and 5th July for Year 8. Our insurers have advised that due to the uncertainty around Covid 19 we should not begin to place deposits yet as they will be unprotected. We do not want to expose families to financial risk. The DfE will need to give us permission to run residential again (at the moment there is a ban) for the situation to change. We all hope that early in the new year we are able to give you full residential information and book places but we ask for your understanding that this may be late notice or not happen at all.



Please note that many of our parent information/consultation evenings on the key dates sheet will look different this year, as we cannot invite parents in to school. More information about our alternative plans will be shared with you in due course.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Julia Tawell

FROSSIES—Friends of St. Osmund's CE Middle School

Frossies is the St Osmund's PTA - although you don't need to be a 'parent' to join or help out – we happily welcome anyone with a link to the school or a student.



We work in close partnership with the senior leadership team at the school to provide meaningful events throughout the year that engage parents, teachers and students outside of the curriculum, enrich school life, and hopefully have some fun too! Through our fund-raising we are able to provide the school, teachers and students, with their 'cherry on top' requests that may not be able to be funded otherwise.

In 'normal times' we would run discos, a Christmas Fair, bingo nights, a Summer Fair and help out at other school events throughout the year. We also run the 'new to you' uniform shop on the first Thursday of each month. In the last year we have raised over £3000 and helped fund projects and purchases, large and small across the school – including the newly refurbished library, the DT garden, social media iPad, history wall banner and there are other things in the pipeline.

We are always looking for helpers at events, and would welcome anyone who wants to get involved in any way. Whether you help out once, or at every event, it's entirely up to you, we appreciate any help. Please follow us on Facebook (search for Frossies) for event information, or send us an email at PTASTOSMUNDS@GMAIL.COM to get in touch.

Governor News

First, a very warm welcome from myself and all of the board to our new Year 5's! It is always exciting to meet new members of the school family and we hope to do this soon. We have welcomed two new Governors to our board over the summer – Lesley Richardson, a foundation governor with a background in secondary school teaching and Louise Balaam, a parent governor currently working for children's charities. Both are excellent additions to our board and bring diverse experiences.

Following the closure to school over the last 6 months, there is even more work to do in supporting the staff and school leaders but we are up for the challenge. Meeting students and talking to them about what they are learning is one of the best parts of being a governor so we hope to be able to get back to that soon. We will continue to be strategic in our goal of raising attainment across the school and continue to strengthen the Governing body with training and also support from the Wessex MAT.

Mrs Emily White—Chair of Governors

Update from Year Leads

"Thank you for helping Year 5 make such an excellent start to their time here at St Osmund's. They have quickly adapted to moving around the school for their lessons. The year group all look very smart in their uniforms and they have approached their learning brilliantly. Please discuss with them the three words that underpin our actions in school - Ready, Respectful and Safe."

Mr Otter—Year 5 Lead



"It has been lovely to welcome Year 6 back to school. It is great to see the pupils trying their best in their lessons, enjoying time with their friends and looking so smart in their uniform. Thank you for encouraging the pupils to be ready, respectful and safe and for supporting us with such a positive start to Year 6."

Mrs Stripp
Year 6 Lead

"A fantastic start by the Year 7 pupils. The pupils are smart, settled and coping well with the demands of a new Key Stage. Thank you to all the parents supporting this wonderful start and well done Year 7."

Mrs Roberts—Year 7 Lead



"It has been really great to welcome Year 8 back to school and for us all to reconnect as part of the Ossie's family. Thank you for ensuring that they have the correct uniform and all the equipment they need to be ready to learn. Please could you check that they still have everything from time to time as we are unable to lend any equipment. Colouring pencils would be a very useful addition.

I have been really impressed with their approach to learning and how quickly Year 8 have settled back into our 'new normal'. The Year 8 team are really looking forward to the year ahead and we will certainly be making the most of our time together. Please do get in touch with your child's tutor if you have any concerns however small."

Ms Staddon—Year 8 Lead

Pupil Premium Update

Welcome back to all our families and an especially big welcome to Year 5 pupils. It was lovely to meet you all at the end of the summer term and we hope that you are enjoying being part of St Osmund's. We are very excited that our partnership with Emma Pritchard (Sparkles Nature Therapy) continues this term. Look out for more information from Miss Hancock. PP Independent Learning Club is offered to each year group once a week. We provide a drink and a snack and a supervised, quiet space to complete their home learning tasks. It is a great opportunity for your child to access ICT too. We also offer breakfast club every morning.

If you would like your child to attend any Pupil Premium club or we can support you in any other way please do get in touch with Miss Hancock hhancock@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk or 01305 262897 ext 141.

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meal funding please visit the Dorset Council website to check.

Ms Staddon—Pupil Premium Lead

Safeguarding Reminder

As many of our pupils are now bringing their mobile phones to school, can we please ask parents to support us by reiterating the following key safeguarding rules to the children;

- the camera function is NOT used outside the home on school days
- photographs should NOT be taken when wearing St. Osmund's uniform or PE kit
- If children have photographs or images of themselves or other children wearing school uniform / PE kit, images should NOT be shared or posted on either the internet or social media.



A number of children are not permitted to be photographed for parental or legal reasons. Also any image of a child posted online associating them with a school (i.e. via its logo) can sadly lead to identification by anyone using the internet or social media to prey upon young people.

We are keen that children understand our reasons and embrace the use of their phones positively and sensitively. Inappropriate use of phones will result in them being confiscated with parents asked to collect them from the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Absolom—Designated Safeguarding Lead

Uniform

Well done to everyone in remembering to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE or games lessons. It's great seeing so many sporty Ossies on a regular basis. Students can only wear items in the PE kit policy, they are not weekly non-uniform days! Please check the uniform policy on the school website: <https://www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk/key-information/uniform/>

Difficulty ordering school sweatshirts



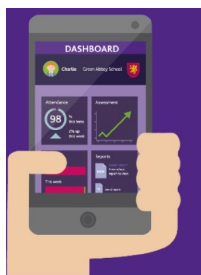
We are working with our supplier, Dorset Schoolwear, as we understand that some of you are having difficulty in ordering new school sweatshirts due to them being out of stock. Dorset Schoolwear are in the process of sourcing more sweatshirts, from a different supplier, and they hope to have these as soon as possible. As we are moving towards more students having v-neck sweatshirts please do not be surprised when you receive yours. A subtle difference in the new school sweatshirts being sourced by Dorset Schoolwear is that the stitching on the shoulders might be a slightly different design to the current sweatshirts. This is barely noticeable and not an issue for us.

We are delighted with the change to the v-neck sweatshirts, they certainly help us to look even smarter!

School Communications

All of our communications are sent to parents via email. Please make sure that we have the correct email address for you on our system. You can update your personal details in the 'Data Collection' section of the SIMS Parent App. We are also aware of a problem with icloud or me.com email addresses not receiving school emails due to the account identifying our emails as junk mail. Please try adding 8384006@simscommunications.co.uk to your address book if you have problems receiving emails from us.

All parents should be registered now and using SIMS Parent. Please email office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk if you need a new invite or if you require assistance. Once you have registered, you can log in by going to www.sims-parent.co.uk or by downloading the SIMS Parent app from your app store.



Once you have logged in, click on your child's name. This will open up a platform showing different options. You can view your child's timetable, homework, attendance, behaviour and merit points, extracurricular clubs, assessment and the school diary. In the event of self-isolation, all work will be set on SIMS Parent.

Knowledge Organisers

Knowledge Organisers are a summary of each subject's content over the next half term and contain key vocabulary and facts that children should learn so that they can achieve well. Students are assessed on that information at the end of that unit of work. Therefore, students will be asked to learn parts of the Knowledge Organisers every week. Knowledge Organisers have been shown to be highly effective in helping all students to improve their long term knowledge and achieve success. You can find all of your child's Knowledge Organisers within the 'Homework' section of the SIMS Parent app (scroll to the very end). You will also be able to view all of the Knowledge Organisers on our school website.

Out of Hours Club

We are delighted to announce that we are now able to provide out of hours care for our pupils. We will be running a breakfast club from 8am -8.30am and an after school club from 3.15pm-5.30pm. If you would like your child to attend please email outofhours@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

This is a chargeable service—details of costs will be confirmed very soon.

DASP Citizen Awards 2020



Huge congratulations to our winners of the DASP Citizen Awards 2020: James Peak and Amelie Fletcher (now at THS), Ethan Crick and Ruby Miller (now Year 8), Oliver Trevorrow and Niamh Parkin (now Year 7) and William Stokey and Elizabeth Rowe (now Year 6). Mr Biddle visited the winning students back in the summer to present them with their trophies. Congratulations!



The Big Sleep at Home

Friday 9th October - The Big Sleep at Home to raise awareness for World Homeless Day 2020

Mrs Sawtell is involved with The Bus Shelter Weymouth and we will be educating the children about homelessness in the build up to this event. On Friday 9th October, we are encouraging all Ossies to replace their normal bedding for a sleeping bag for the night. For a different experience, your Ossie might decide to sleep in their bag on their bedroom floor without a mattress? We are not seeking to fund-raise with this event, just raise the children's awareness of the issue.



We would love to see some of our Ossies doing this so, if parents want to, you can send a picture of your sleeping Ossie, in their bag to Mrs Sawtell via the email headteacher@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



The St. Osmund's anti-bullying ambassadors have had their initial meeting and have begun weekly meetings to try and promote a positive atmosphere around the school. We'll be sharing ideas, creating posters, videos and schemes that help children who are feeling vulnerable.

Don't forget to submit your school staff anti-bullying award nominations to Mr Biddle—see previous email for details.

School Buses

We must strongly request that the children sit in the same seat for every journey. This request comes following lessons learnt in other schools with tracing contact of either suspected or confirmed cases of COVID. We would also like to request that pupils wear a face mask on the bus. Staff on bus duty will supervise but please could you remind your child(ren) of these points. Thank you.



Admissions

We would like to make you aware to a change in our admissions arrangements from September 2021. You can find details of the changes on our website.

REMINDER—If you have a child in Year 8 you can now apply for their place at Secondary/Upper school by visiting www.dorsetcouncil/school-admissions The deadline is 31st October 2020.

Hot School Meals



Our school lunches are supplied by Local Food Links, an award-winning Dorset based social enterprise that has been making nutritious school meals since 2006. Meals must be ordered 7 days in advance. The menu for this term is attached and you can place orders by visiting their website: <https://my.localfoodlinks.org.uk/login>. If your child has allergies or special dietary requirements please contact barry.dovell@localfoodlinks.org.uk.

T: 01305 262897 www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk

 /stosmundsschool

Email addresses for staff can be found on our website under 'Key Information/Contact Us'