

June 2020



SIR JAMES SMITH'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer

This week was the first week we have been able to welcome SJS pupils back into lessons with their teachers since March. Despite the understandable concerns of parents/carers and the inability of those pupils shielding to attend, we welcomed over 80% of year 10 throughout the week. Whilst it is frustrating to still only be allowed to have a quarter of a year group in school at any one time, it felt great to be taking the first steps towards a return to normal school life. I'd like to add that our year 10 pupils were fantastic, a credit to themselves and their families. If social distancing with more children at school in future is something we need to live with looking ahead, working with year 10 over the next few weeks is going to give us valuable experience. I've told you before that I'm an optimist and certainly the latest information and guidance suggests there are good reasons to hope September may yet look normal with all year groups on site at the same time. As I write, nothing official has been produced telling schools what to expect in September but as I say, the signs are looking more promising now than they were when I was in touch with you last. Here's hoping.

We are continuing to hope to be able to provide pupils currently in year 6 who are joining us in September the chance to come to SJS before the end of term. With the guidance schools receive changing as frequently as it does presently; it's prudent to push this transition week back to allow the DfE guidance time to catch up with our ambition. Therefore the next few weeks of term now look like:

Week beginning 22.6.2020	Year 10 pupils in school, a tutor group each day: 10DMH on Monday, 10AOJ on Tuesday, 10ZJJ on Wednesday and 10JPR on Thursday.
Week beginning 29.6.2020	Year 10 pupils in school, a tutor group each day: 10DMH on Monday, 10AOJ on Tuesday, 10ZJJ on Wednesday and 10JPR on Thursday.
Week beginning 6.7.2020	(Hopefully) Year 6 pupils in school, a tutor group each day, details to be confirmed.
Week beginning 13.7.2020	Year 9 pupils in school to help them get ready for their GCSEs in September, a tutor group each day, details to be confirmed.

You will of course be kept informed should any of the details above change over the coming days and weeks.

Sir James Smith's Community School, Dark Lane, Camelford, Cornwall PL32 9UJ

Headteacher: Kristien Carrington

Tel: 01840 213274 enquiries@sirjamesmiths.cornwall.sch.uk

www.sirjamesmiths.cornwall.sch.uk

Next week your child's form tutor will be in touch through Show My Homework (Satchel One) as we begin **video conferencing** with tutor groups. Making this contact is an important development, especially for those pupils in years 7 and 8 who aren't going to be back in normal lessons this term. I know that maintaining those home learning routines is challenging and thank you for the efforts we know you are making to positively encourage your children to persevere. Home and school working together has always mattered to the education of children. We can see, judging by a recent report from the National Foundation for Educational Research, that SJS families are maintaining those home learning routines in far greater numbers and far more effectively than appears to be the case both regionally and nationally, thank you.

Finally, if you have found that your circumstances have changed during this pandemic crisis and believe you may now be eligible for free school meals, do please contact the school. If you are eligible we will be able to make sure you receive the support you are entitled to. As ever, whether it's free school meals, home learning or anything else, you can contact the school through the usual channels.

Keep well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristien Carrington
Headteacher