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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that you have chosen our school and congratulations on gaining a place at Church Stretton School! We look forward to welcoming you to the school and working with you over the next five years. We realise that in a 'normal' school situation, this can be an anxious time for both parents and students. However, we understand that in these unprecedented times in relation to the Coronavirus and how it is affecting us all, levels of anxiety may be heightened. We want to reassure you that we will do all we can to ease the transfer process and will make it our business to give you as much information as possible, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

We are all finding these times quite a challenge, but we want to make sure your child is excited rather than worried or anxious about starting their secondary schooling. This year we are going to have to make some changes about how we get to know your child and how you get to know us.

Usually we would be coming to visit Year 6 children at their school. Mr Longhurst, Assistant Headteacher Mr Wright, Head of Key Stage 3 and Mr Ward, SENDCo would get to know a little bit about them from their class teacher, talk with them about their hobbies and interests and it would also be a chance for your child to ask any questions that you have about coming to Church Stretton School in September. Popular questions have often been, "what's on the lunch menu?" "who will be my Form Tutor?" what happens if I get lost?", "who will be in my Form?" and indeed many others.

This is also the time of year that your child would be coming for a full taster day at Church Stretton School, to experience a day with us, get to know their way around a little, meet some teachers and start making some new friends. We would also invite you and your child to a 'new intake' presentation, where parents would be given information regarding the school, transition and have the opportunity to ask questions. We still want to do these important things with you, but we need to find a different way to do this and some things may take longer to achieve. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 10th May 2020, we will keep a close eye on how things proceed and if at all possible and safe, we will try to arrange an opportunity for you and your child to come in to Church Stretton School before the end of the summer term. However, if this is not possible, please rest assured that your child's smooth transition to Church Stretton School is very important to all of the teachers and we will do as much as we can to help you feel informed and settled ready for September.

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What we would encourage you to do now:

- Explore the school website, in particular the Transition section under the 'Admissions' tab – we are altering this to reflect the changes to transition this year.
- Look out for the 'New Parents' information that will be added to this page on our website soon and read through this carefully.
- We will be placing several very useful links in this section, which we hope will give you the opportunity to get to know more about us as well.

Regarding uniform, please do not purchase any 'House coloured' uniform until we have informed you of the House that your child will be joining (there are four Houses with different coloured House names). Mr Wright will be establishing the House lists very soon and will be in contact to inform you thereafter. We have contacted our uniform supplier who have informed us that a letter/leaflet will soon be available to send out to parents to help you with how best to choose and purchase uniform. They have informed us that they will still be offering a full online shop, but they hope the physical retail shop will be open at some point before the end of the summer term, depending on government guidelines.

Now we can contact you through our email messaging service, we can regularly update you with new information. We can start to communicate with you about all the things you may want to know about before your child starts with us. All we ask now is that you look out for more emails with updates we have for you and check our website regularly.

Could we please ask that you apply for your child's transport as soon as possible by telephoning Transport section at Shirehall on 03456 789006 or by applying online via <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/secondary/>

This will then ensure that your son/daughter can travel on their appropriate school bus in September.

Enclosed with this letter is this link to a [Personal Information Form](#) and for you to complete and submit, as soon as possible, but by Tuesday 18th June at the latest. It is important for us to have all personal information about your child, especially emergency contacts, medical details, medical consent and **an up to date email address** as all correspondence home is via email. Apologies that it is a lengthy form, as it incorporates both the personal information for our records, plus information we would like from your child that we would normally have gathered separately.

Please note, unfortunately due to the ongoing health concerns relating to the Coronavirus pandemic, we will not be offering the opportunity for your son/daughter to attend Summer School or the Year 7 Bushcraft Camp in September.

Yours sincerely,

J Parr

Mr John Parr
Headteacher