

Headteachers:

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Our School Vision:

At St Mary's, inspired by Christian values, we are excited by our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best that we can be and caring for all of God's creation.

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of our second full week and the children are continuing to smile on arrival and departure from school ☺

They are continuing to be resilient and hardworking which is well captured by some of the work that Y5 have done recently with their messages to inspire and motivate others to 'keep going' and to 'be the best that we can be'.



Alongside the Recovery ethos learning, the children have got back into the swing of the National Curriculum and are working hard as shown here by Y1 children using resources in maths.

Mr Kerr has also begun coached PE lessons again and the children from Y1-6 have had a focus on athletics and refining running techniques.

Although the timetable for the day continues to be very different, and quite exhausting for staff and children, we are delighted with the ongoing positive ‘can do’ approach used every day by all. Enormous thanks to all the staff who are turning their hands to huge amounts of cleaning and infection control in addition to providing the children with all the valuable learning experiences they so much deserve.



A HUGE THANK YOU for your donations so far to support us with our expenses related to additional cleaning, PPE and infection control. One example of a significant expense is paper towels as we are no longer permitted to use hand dryers. We are now going through 15 packets of paper towels **each day** which amounts to 3,750 a day! Typically, prior to the need to wash and dry hands so frequently, we would have used about 6 packets **a week...**

Donations can be made online via School Money under the heading Covid Donation. Any amount, no matter how small will really help.

General Information and Updates:

- Thank you so much for arriving 5 minutes before the children’s official start/finish time. Please continue to arrive as near to this time as you can to avoid congestion on the pavement and line up socially distanced along the school wall to the right of the Church Hill gate. This also allows the public to pass at a distance. It is more important than ever now as we all endeavour to follow the government ‘rule of 6’ to help avoid another spike in infections.
- Please continue to ensure that your child has a small packet of tissues with them in school and remind them of the importance of good respiratory and hand hygiene when they need to use a tissue. The more frequently the children get used to this at home, the more naturally they will follow the same routine at school.
- A reminder that when the children return from school, they should have a shower and their uniform should be washed so that they return to school on the following day with clean clothing.
- On Mondays and Fridays, the children need to come to school in their PE kits. Please provide a jumper as the weather becomes cooler.
- Some children are beginning to run out of the stationery items in their pencil cases. Please discuss this with them to ensure they always have sufficient equipment. Glue

CATCH IT
Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

KILL IT
Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as possible.

NHS

stick in particular run out quickly if they are the small ones as they are used most days. A standard size glue stick will last much longer.

A Reminder about Coronavirus Symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (37.8 degrees or above) OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours OR
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means noticing not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. Please check symptoms [here](#).

Please refer to this guide about what to do in relation to various scenarios associated with Coronavirus:

What to do if....	Action needed...	Return to school when...
...my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not come to school• Notify the school by phone• Self-isolate• Get a test• Inform school immediately about test result even if it's negative	...the test comes back negative.
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not come to school• Notify the school by phone• Self-isolate for at least 10 days• Inform school immediately about test result	...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not come to school• Notify the school by phone• Self-isolate• Household member to get a test• Inform school immediately about test result	...the household member test is negative.

What to do if....	Action needed...	Return to school when...
...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Notify the school by phone • Self-isolate for 14 days 	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Notify the school by phone • Self-isolate for 14 days 	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
...we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate a part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Notify the school by phone • Self-isolate for 14 days 	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school by phone to discuss advice • Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again OR ...medical advice changes to recommend a return to school.

IT IS ESSENTIAL that you notify the school if you have any of the scenarios in the chart.

Assessments and Consultations:

Class teams are regularly observing and adjusting practice based on ongoing assessment every day to ensure that learning is well matched. As usual for this time of year, over the coming weeks, teachers will be doing various assessments with the children to see how they are doing and to help identify any gaps.

Teachers will discuss strengths and areas for further development with you in consultations after half term. These will look a bit different to usual as you might imagine; as we cannot have face to face conversations, all consultations will take place virtually using Zoom. Further information about how to book and access the consultation will follow nearer the time.

Trust:

We have been exploring the value of ‘trust’ with the children in our daily acts of worship. Here is a beautiful Celtic prayer about how God can be trusted. The children have been using this prayer this week in class.

*Almighty God,
Be to me a solid rock to stand on.
a strong tower to shelter in,
and a firm anchor to hold me safe in the storms of life.
Amen*

From all of us at St Mary’s primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers be with you as always.

**Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams
Headteachers**