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# St Mary's

## Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter No 10 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### 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.

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you had a wonderful half term last week. It's been lovely to welcome the children back into school again.

We wrote to you yesterday to let you know that we have unfortunately had our first positive case of Covid 19 in school. We acted swiftly to take all the necessary decisions and actions for the Y5 class bubble and associated members of staff. Business continues to be as normal for the rest of the classes in school today.

### **Curriculum Letters:**

These have already been emailed to you and uploaded to the [website](#). Please take some time to read what the children will be learning about between now and the end of term.

### **Consultations:**

You will have hopefully read the recent [Bulletin](#) about forthcoming consultations. If you have not already done so, please book a consultation time for you to meet with your child's teacher using Zoom.

It's essential that you read the information in the bulletin so that you are fully prepared to access the online meeting.

### **Remembrance and Poppies:**

As we celebrate Remembrance this year we are unable to go to the war memorial in the village. As always we will have a short act of worship and silence at 11 am next Wednesday 11th, Armistice day. This will be pre-recorded as are all our acts of worship currently. Thank you for your generosity in purchasing poppies; they will continue to be on sale until 11/11. We have a remembrance wreath and will lay it at the war memorial on behalf of the school next week.



### **High Covid rate in Barnet and lock down: Taking Responsibility to Protect Others:**

We advised parents and carers early last half term to wear face coverings during drop off and pick up times at school. We would like to reiterate that wearing a face covering helps to protect others from risk. The white lines on the front playground where you wait to drop off and pick up the children are presently 1m apart.

The requirements continue that distancing should be 2 metres or no less than 1 metre with a mask. As we cannot provide more than 1 metre distancing on the playground, we are asking that you please wear a face mask when you come onto the playground unless you have a medical reason for not doing this. You should also wear a mask if you are waiting on the pavement before the gate opens.

With that in mind, it is essential that you understand the following information from Public Health England:

- If you are **within 1 metre of someone for 1 minute or more**, you are potentially at risk.

SO:

- Please ensure that you **remain at least 1 metre away** from other parents and carers when you are waiting on the front playground. The white lines are there for you to stand on.
- Remember to **maintain this distance** as you leave the premises.

### **Ventilation in Classrooms:**

As you know, ventilation has been a key component in our infection control measures which include the following:

- Ensuring classroom windows are open at least 10cm wide when the children are inside
- Windows fully extended to full opening when children are outside
- Classroom doors wedged open all day

[Here is an excellent demonstration of why ventilation in classrooms is so essential.](#) This article also explains how Covid travels through the air which further reiterates the importance of face coverings at drop off and pick up times.

### **Keeping Warm in Classrooms:**

We are monitoring classroom temperatures throughout the day to ensure they do not drop below 16 degrees. We are using the heating as needed every day, particularly as the weather gets cooler.

As a reminder, the children can wear additional layers if they feel they need them. This doesn't have to be a school uniform item. Some children might like to wear base layer clothing or 'skins' under their uniform to keep warm. Alternatively, they can bring in an extra fleece or sweatshirt to wear over their uniform.



## A Reminder about Covid 19 Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards



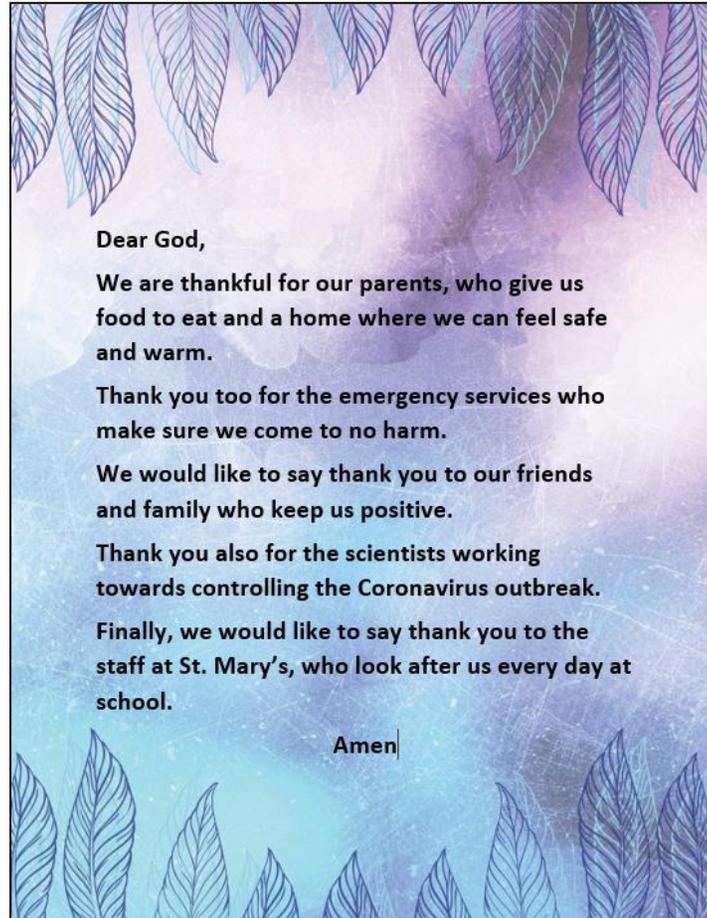
## Guidance for Households and Support Bubbles:

- If someone in your household or support bubble develops symptoms, please take advice from NHS 111 for the affected person.
- All family members should isolate for 14 days if someone in the household or support bubble tests positive for Covid 19.
- These measures must also be taken if the child goes between two households where parents do not live together and one of these parents or members of the household becomes unwell and/or subsequently tests positive. The child should also self-isolate until a Covid test result is obtained.
- Please notify the school immediately if someone in your household or support bubble develops symptoms resulting in your child staying at home. We must also be informed without delay if that person tests positive.

***In addition to our in-school infection control measures, the safety of the children and staff relies on everyone following the advice outside of school.***

**Thankfulness: 'Always be thankful' 1 Thelassonians Chapter 5 Verse 16**

Our focus value for this half term is Thankfulness. We have been speaking to the children in daily collective worship and helping them to reflect on what it means to be thankful and who they could be thankful for. Year 6 have written a beautiful collective class prayer that we wanted to share with you



**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**