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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 17 Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have no doubt heard last night's announcement by the Prime Minister in which he announced that all primary and secondary schools in England will not be open to all pupils for the remainder of this half term. As you know, being a school in London, we were already prepared for the move to remote learning in addition to provision for children of critical workers. All of our plans are in place for the children and we were very pleased with their engagement yesterday.

NEW: Live Early Morning Briefing

We would like to introduce a short, live online briefing for whole classes using a Google Meet link on Google Classroom.

The purpose of the 10-minute briefing is to give the children an overview of the day's learning and will also serve to reassure and further motivate the children. This will be a very valuable opportunity for the children to ask any questions they may have about the day's activities too.

These meetings will begin from Wednesday 6th January. **In Year 1 to Year 6 these will only take place when teachers are not in school supporting critical worker provision.** The teaching team in Reception will be able to lead a meeting daily.

Teachers in Year 1 to Year 6 will notify the children on the Class Stream in Google Classroom about which days the meetings will be on.

The meetings will take place at the following times:

- **9.15am Y6 and Y5**
- **8.45 Y1 and Y2**
- **9.00 Y3 and Y4**
- **9.30 YR**

If your child will be in school for critical worker provision, they will be able to access the meeting if they'd like to.

Please speak to your child about the importance of logging in to these meetings. We have tried to organise them at times where there will be minimal clash between siblings so that devices are not needed at the same time.

A few basic instructions for the children:

- Wear a school sweatshirt or school t shirt for the meeting.
- Please only join the meeting at the start time, and not before. If the teacher is not in the meeting, please leave the meeting and then re-join by clicking on the meeting link again in a few minutes.
- Children to mute themselves in the first instance to allow the teacher to give the briefing. They will be invited to unmute towards the end of the meeting if they have any questions.

Behaviour in all online meetings:

Is it essential that the children behave well during these early morning briefings and in the regular Google Meet times. If a child's actions or behaviour has a detrimental impact on the meeting, then the teacher will give them a verbal warning which may lead to them being removed from the meeting should the behaviour continue. If this should happen, parents will be notified and we trust that we can work together to ensure this does not happen again.

Covid-19 Diagnoses in children at home:

Although most children won't be in school, please keep us informed if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 as we still need to anonymously report cases of children that attend St. Mary's. You can do this by contacting the office by email.

Covid-19 and Critical Worker Provision:

If your child attends the critical worker provision and **they OR a household member develops Covid-19 symptoms, the child must not come to school.** You must notify us immediately so that we can advise on next steps.

In the event that your child tests positive for Covid-19, they and the whole household must self-isolate. You must notify the school immediately so that we can take the necessary steps to close that critical worker bubble.

Supporting Children's Wellbeing:

The recent news and the ongoing situation will no doubt be difficult and anxiety provoking for many families. Please take a look at the [wellbeing page on our website](#) for further advice and links that might be useful.

We are very aware that we have sent out a number of communications in recent days, as this has been absolutely essential given the speed with which decisions have had to be taken. We have tried our best to communicate with clarity and accuracy and we thank you all for your support at this challenging time.

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**