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# St Mary's

## Church of England Primary School

### Newsletter No. 22

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,  
We hope you continue to be safe and well and that the children enjoyed their half term break.

Last night, the Prime Minister announced that all schools will be returning to face to face education from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. **We are really looking forward to seeing all of the children again.**

We will be resuming the same organisation of the school day as we had before Christmas. As before, our risk assessment involves having a staggered start and end of day for each class as follows. Please arrive and leave **on time** to avoid congestion:

Class	Start Time	Entrance and Exit Gate	Home Time
Year Six	8.00am	Church Hill Road Gate	2.30pm
Year One	8.15am	Church Hill Road Gate	2.45pm
Reception	8.30am	Littlegrove Entrance when entering premises and Church Road Gate when leaving.	3.00pm
Year Three	8.30am	Church Hill Road Gate	3.00pm
Year Two	8.45am	Church Hill Road Gate	3.15pm
Year Four	9.00am	Church Hill Road Gate	3.30pm
Year Five	9.15am	Church Hill Road Gate	3.45pm

In line with DfE guidance, the children will be working in their class bubbles across the day. This means that all classes will also have separate break and lunchtimes in order to keep the bubbles apart as much as possible.

We now know that 1 in 3 people can have Covid-19 without showing any symptoms. When you are on school premises it is **essential that you adhere to social distancing and that you wear a face covering** to protect others.

#### Staggered Starts with More Than One Child in School:

As we did before Christmas, we would like to offer the option of a parent being able to drop all of their children off at the same time as the earliest drop off time.

- If you have more than one child in school, please bring them to the Church Hill Road gate **at the earliest start time for one of your children**. We ask that siblings remain together as they come in and

that the oldest sibling escorts the younger one(s) to the hall where they will remain until they are taken to the classroom by a member of staff.

- The children will need to **bring something to do** while they are in the hall e.g. a reading book, as we cannot use school equipment.

### **Breakfast Club:**

As before, we have limited access to breakfast club from 8am. If you would like to request a slot in breakfast club, please contact the office by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### **School Lunches:**

We will assume that your child will have the same lunch arrangements as they had before Christmas. Please notify the office of any changes by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Will the children be expected to take part in Covid testing at school?**

You may have heard information in the media about pupils having Covid tests in school. **Pupils in primary school are not currently offered Covid testing.** This offer is for pupils in secondary schools only.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March:**

In order to ensure that the school is safe and ready for a full return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, the staff will be required to be in school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. On this day, the children will be set online learning in the normal way and will also be given two screen free tasks to complete. As staff will be on site, there will be **no feedback** of learning tasks. Instead, teachers will pick this up live with the children in the classroom on the Monday.

### **Lent and Collective Worship:**

We have begun our journey to Easter with the children in our online collective worship and we have been so overwhelmed by the children's comments. They have been clearly moved by the needs of others and are showing a deep understanding of how Covid-19 has impacted the lives of so many. Here are some of their comments:

*'I really want to be involved in helping with food donations because I think it's unfair and everyone deserves food and people who have lost their jobs do not have enough food to feed their families.'*  
Noah (Y5) Matilda (Y3) and Olivia (Y1)

*'When so many people are now lonely, without jobs and have lost loved ones, we donated a huge black sack full of unwanted gifts and toys to the women's refuge. We have written and drawn pictures to people that are lonely. My sister has written to our local refuse collectors to thank them for their hard work this last year. I am going to send messages to friends and family to tell them I miss them and I love them to put a smile on their faces. We are going to keep doing acts of kindness in as many ways as we can during Lent. We are going to try and do 40!'*  
Amy (Y4)

We have heard about neighbours organising food collections on their streets to donate to local food banks. It would be incredible if our school community could do the same. **Could you set up or discuss doing this where you live?** It would be really wonderful if you could! Please send us photos for our newsletters or for the website with your street name. Spread the word!

Once we return to school, we will be inviting the children to bring in an item a week during Lent for a food bank donation at the end of term. More details to follow.

### **Celebration Week Celebrating the return of all the children:**

The children's first week back will be a 'Celebration week' that will include some of the activities that we had planned for final week of the autumn term. This will include Christingle, parties and gifts as well as Christmas lunch (better late than never!) We are assuming that if you previously booked a Christmas lunch for your child that this still stands. Please let us know via office if you would like to request one.

Our biggest celebration will of course be the return for classroom learning and play for the children to be able to see their friends and the staff again, and for us to see them all!



**Please don't hesitate to get in touch as always if you need to.**

#### **A prayer for others:**

**Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the light of the world.**

**As we begin this season of Lent, help us to shine your light by showing your love and care to those around us each day.**

**Help us to make the light of your love burn brightly.**

**We pray especially for those who are hungry and homeless,**

**For those who have lost their jobs or are unable to work,**

**For those who are feeling sad or lonely and for those who are ill.**

**Be with all those who are working today to help in so many ways, for all those who work in the health service and emergency services, for bus drivers, delivery drivers, shop workers, refuse collectors, cooks and those who deliver food.**

**In a moment of silence, we think of others we know... we pray for each other while we are apart from family and friends and especially those who are unable to be in school.**

**Bless each one with your generous love, your presence and your peace.**

**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**