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St Mary's

Church of England

Primary School

Newsletter No. 23

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you continue to be safe and well. **We are really looking forward to seeing all of the children again** and welcoming them back to their class and school community, reminding them that after the separation they all belong together. It will be good to re-establish the learning routines as well as enjoying play and fun together. We'll be recapturing some of the activities we missed before Christmas which will include some collaborative artwork.

Monday 8th March is the first day back and today's newsletter includes a few reminders.

Timings for the Day:

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

On arrival via the Church Hill Road entrance, please wait **on** the white lines.

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.

- Please DO NOT stop to speak to class teachers, it holds up the children coming in. If you need to give them a message, please ask the senior staff on duty who will pass it on.
- Please do not shout your child's name when you come to collect. Shouting is a high risk due to aerosol projection. The staff on duty will send them to you.
- To avoid queueing, please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before the class time when the gate will be opened. Queuing on the pavement is a risk to yourselves and the public passing by.



- Please do not stand outside the gate after collection, leave the site and go home!

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. See the newsletter of [23rd February](#) for more details about this and breakfast club.

What do the children need for school?

- Named bottle of water
- Plastic bag (no school bags) so that they can bring any items home
- Come dressed in PE kit on Mondays and Fridays as before (joggers, sweatshirt and trainers)
- Metal or plastic pencil case for Y1 to Y6 (although most will still be in school from last term)
- Layers of clothing: Whilst the weather is now a little warmer, we are still ensuring that doors and windows are kept open for essential ventilation purposes.

School Uniform:

We can imagine that your child may have grown considerably during lockdown, so whilst they should be in school uniform, we do understand if uniform has become too small! If so, please send them to school in items closely resembling uniform until you are able to buy replacements. The same applies to footwear, particularly given that shoe shops are not currently open.

Helping Children Back to School:

It has been a challenging year for children which is why it's so important that we do what we can to help support their mental health and wellbeing as they return to the classroom on 8th March.

The Local Authority have a wide range of useful resources on their [Back to School page](#). Some of these include tips on how to get back into a routine, important information on potential changes to the school setting and advice on dealing with anxiety. You might like to look at the [Back to School booklet](#) for parents and carers with methods and advice to help manage any anxiety, disrupted sleep patterns and to build their resilience.

Virtual Library:

On Monday, we launched our St. Mary's virtual library which gives children access to listen to book readings from a varied selection of texts. Please encourage the children to have a browse. We have made recommended pages for Reception, Year One and Year Two, and then created some themed bookshelves with topics including 'feelings and emotions' and 'Black Lives Matter'. The virtual library can be found [here](#) on our website. We will be launching our own World Book Day virtual library tomorrow!

New Road Markings:

Yesterday, the council laid down new road markings on Littlegrove which means that there will now be restricted parking in the area around school.

Please consider this if you drive to school and leave sufficient time to find a safe parking space.

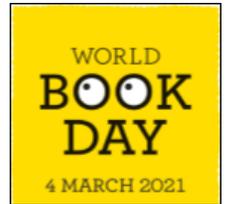


DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th March

- World Book Day 2021, with themed online learning and the opportunity to dress up in favourite book characters whether the children are at home or coming into Critical Worker provision in school. [Click here for more details.](#)



Friday 5th March

- Staff will be in school preparing classroom for Monday 8th return. Online learning continues but there will be **no feedback** of learning tasks. Instead, teachers will pick this up live with the children in the classroom on the Monday.

Monday 8th March

- All children return to school for Celebration Week!



Thursday 11th March

- Christmas dinner and celebration parties. Children to come to school in their favourite celebration outfit (no football shirts or dressing up costumes – and please remember that windows will be open so clothing still needs to be warm). Please supply a **named drink** e.g. small carton of juice (no glass bottles or fizzy drinks). We have set up a 50p donation on School Money to help with party expenses which will include snacks.

Friday 12th March

- Christingle collective worship in school featuring Y6 and the Christingles they made earlier in the week.

Lent and Collective Worship: Reminder

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.



Here is a photo from a local street collection

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, care workers 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.

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

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**