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St Mary's
Church of England
Primary School
Friday 25th September 2020

Newsletter No 5

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 have come to the end of another great week with the children! As with all of our newsletters, please do read the content carefully as our correspondence contains essential updates and information.

School lunches:

A few parents have enquired about whether portions for school lunches have changed – they haven't! Portions are exactly the same as they have always been; what has changed is the dish that they are served in. To support the safe and efficient distribution of food, children are no longer having lunch served in the usual plate – they are having lunch in a larger platter or in a cardboard container for Y3 and Y6. For this reason, children may perceive that portions are getting smaller.

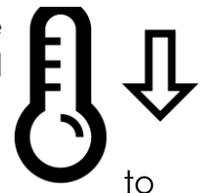
Snacks:

Please feel free to send in a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for your child to enjoy at playtime. As we have children in school with allergies, please do not send in cereal bars or breakfast biscuits. Pupils in the infant classes continue to receive a piece of fruit/veg each day courtesy of the 5 a day scheme.



Cold weather:

I'm sure you've noticed that the temperature has dropped considerably! The children need **a warm, waterproof coat in school every day** as they will continue to go out to play. In line with our risk assessment control measures, classroom windows must be kept open to ensure that rooms are well ventilated. Please ensure that your child also has a **named jumper or cardigan** wear.



Harvest Festival:

We are looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival at the start of October as we do each year. This year, some families will sadly rely on Food Banks more than ever.

The system for Harvest contributions into school will need to look a little different in light of infection control. We will write to you again with further details nearer the time.



Hand washing:

Hand hygiene continues to be an essential ingredient of the school day to help to keep the children safe. Please remind the children to **wash and dry** their hands carefully; they must take care to wash all soap away and to dry their hands thoroughly. Soap residue and the addition of cold weather can make hands sore.

Bumped Heads:

If your child bumps their head at school, they will receive a sticker to let you know. You will also receive a text and an email advising you of what to look out for. **Please ensure that you reply to the email to acknowledge that you have received it.** This is a new system in place of the blue bumped head letter that we have previously sent home so we really appreciate your support and responses.



A Reminder about Coronavirus Symptoms:

Please do not send your child in to school if they have any of the following 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](#).

You must let us know if you have been advised to have your child tested for coronavirus.

Face coverings:

A big thank you to you all for wearing face coverings when you drop off and collect your child from school. The decision was made to help to keep you all safe. Remember to maintain your distance as you leave and avoid gathering with other parents before/after school.



Love Thy Neighbour:

This week the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby reminded the World of the following in an effort to encourage us all to continue to be responsible in the fight against Coronavirus:

Wearing a mask is loving your neighbour.

Keeping your distance is loving your neighbour.

Washing your hands is loving your neighbour.

Let's keep loving our neighbours.

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**