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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 2 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you've had a wonderful summer break. It's been lovely welcoming the children back to school for the start of a new academic year, and we have really enjoyed having live worship in the hall after so many months of daily, online worship. We have even had some singing in school, which we have missed terribly!

This week's newsletter includes general updates, and essential reading about important changes to self-isolation guidance which affects children and school attendance.

Rector's Worship at St. Mary's Church:

We are currently working with Alec to establish a pattern for children to attend St. Mary's Church. This is such an important experience for the children.

Once we are able to confirm plans, we will let you know. Staff will be very grateful for any offers to help walk the children to church and back.

Dropping off times:

We have been very pleased with how well our revised arrangements are working for dropping children off at the start of the day. Thank you for your co-operation. Please avoid gathering on the pavement on Church Hill Road; do come onto the front playground with your child rather than dropping them off at the outer gate.

Unless you have more than one child in the school, please ensure that you bring your child to school at the correct time for their class:

Year 5 and Year 6: 8.30am
Year 4 and Year 3: 8.40am
Year 2 and Year 1: 8:50am
Reception: 8.50am – Littlegrove entrance

Where there are siblings at the school, the children can be dropped off at the time of the oldest child as explained in our [previous newsletter](#). The older sibling will take their younger brother or sister to class.

End of day and siblings:

A reminder, that if you have more than one child in the school from **Y1 to Y6** younger siblings can leave with older siblings at the end of the day. Older siblings can collect younger ones from their classroom so they can meet parents at the end of the **oldest** child's school day. If you would like to make this arrangement and haven't told us yet, please contact the office.

Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet



Please note that if you have a child starting in Reception, this will not apply **at this stage**, as we will need parents rather than siblings to collect the children at the official end of day time 3.35pm. We will review this into the term, when Reception are settled.

Breakfast Club: Reminder

Breakfast Club is now running; children can arrive between 7.45 and 8.35am via the Littlegrove entrance, at the cost of £5.50 per session. In the hall, the children are seated in class tables as we are still keeping the children from mixing closely.

There is no requirement to book a place for breakfast club.

The children can enjoy a cooked breakfast and cereal, and food is served until 8:15am. Our breakfast club is run by our own staff and is a very popular option to support working parents. Once they have eaten, the children can enjoy a range of activities on offer in the hall.



Important changes to self-isolation guidance and school attendance:

Over the summer break, the Department for Education reviewed its guidance for schools; we have tried to capture what we think is the most vital information below.

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



- **All children MUST attend school unless they are ill.**
- **From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a close contact, has Covid-19.**
- **Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school as long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.**
- **Please let us know if your child needs a PCR test because a member of their household or a close contact, has tested positive for Covid-19.**
- **If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test), NOT a Lateral Flow test.**
- **If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book a PCR test for them.**
- **If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**

Last academic year, like many other schools, we experienced some class bubble closures based on advice at the time. However, schools are no longer expected to 'close' bubbles following just one positive case of Covid. Please see further details and possible scenarios with corresponding actions below:

Number of cases of Covid	Description	Actions
 <p>A single child tests positive with COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single child tests positive for Covid in a class. • There are fewer than 5 cases in the class. • No other classes are affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it as outlined on our website here • The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts. • Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book at PCR Test, however, the school

		<p>will also contact parents to advise if close contacts are known.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have COVID-19 Symptoms.
 <p>5 children or staff within a class test positive within 10 days of each other</p> <p>OR</p> <p>10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 5 cases of Covid in a class within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above for each positive case. • The school will discuss the outbreak with Barnet Public Health and agree further strengthening, protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u>, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adapting lunchtime arrangements ○ Reverting to online worship in classrooms rather than in the hall ○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school.
 <p>COVID-19 cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10-day period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held between the school and Barnet Public Health to agree further measures, <u>for a further 10 school days</u>, which is likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing class bubbles. ○ Reverting to class-based school lunches. ○ Postponing all non-essential events. <p>Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days considered, as outlined here.</p>

We will inform parents of any changes to COVID-19 measures should these be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the revised guidance.

Date for your diaries:

- 10am on Sunday 12th September – Education Sunday at St. Mary’s Church

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**