



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs Louise O'Mahony

*At St. Mary's we live and learn, sharing God's love*

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

### 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Good afternoon. I hope you all had a lovely half term – despite the wet weather! I am so pleased to be back in school and to be with the children. I am not spending anywhere near as much time with them as I would do normally and am missing that so much – but I do pop my head into the classrooms most days to check in on them! The teachers have been so impressed with the children as they are working so hard and seem genuinely pleased to be back in school – as we all are!

I must say a huge thank you to the children whose teachers were self-isolating before half term meaning many were taught via Microsoft Teams – the wonders of technology!! The teachers themselves reported that the children responded so well and the staff in class were also very impressed with them.

This is a huge learning curve for us all, but we are striving to provide the children with the very best learning experiences, whilst following the latest guidance. We are aiming to use Teams for remote teaching if any more bubbles and/or teachers have to isolate.

### C19 UPDATE

There has been much debate over the last few days about the transmission rates in schools and whether we should be closed again, with several parents asking me about it. I would like to reassure you that, as things currently stand, the Government are strongly opposed to schools closing again. I am not aware of any future plans which involve school closures. I will, of course, let you know immediately, if this changes.

Please may I politely remind you that if you are coming onto school premises, for everyone's safety, you are advised to wear a mask.

If your child is absent from school as they are having to self-isolate, work is available via their ClassDojo pages. Please do contact your child's class teacher if there are any issues ie you are unable to connect to Dojo.

If you feel your child needs any emotional support when isolating, please also feel free to contact Mrs Davidson, our Learning mentor, who will offer whatever is needed to support your child. Her number is 07949785631. Mrs Davidson currently works 3 days per week so if you ring and she is not available, please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can.

Also, in these circumstances, we will provide vouchers/food parcels to families who are eligible for Free School Meals.

### [Latest guidance for people having to self-isolate \(updated 28-9-20\)](#)

This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home->

[guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#while-you-are-self-isolating-make-sure-you-do-the-following-things](#)

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

With the new national lockdown and more businesses/places of work being forced to close, we have no doubts that this will be putting extra pressure on some families, especially with Christmas approaching.

If you are, for any reason, struggling at the moment, please feel free to contact Julie, our family support worker who will help you in any way she can. Her number is 07495161126 – please be assured that your call will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS/PHOTOGRAPHS

You should, by now, have received the proof for the Christmas card, designed by your child, with an order form. There are several ways that you can pay for these, should you wish to order. Our preferred method is for you to pay by SCOPAY. If you do choose to use this method, please still return the order form to school to enable us to process the order.

Alternatively, you can return the order form to school with cash or a cheque.

Please return all orders to school by next Friday, 13th November. **Please note that this is the absolute deadline for free delivery.** If you place an order after this date, you will be charged a late delivery charge of approximately £9. Unfortunately, this is out of our control and imposed by the company. Thank you.

Next week, we will also be sending home the proofs for the individual photographs which were recently taken. Payment for these does have to be cheque or cash as these are sent directly to the photographer. The deadline for orders will be the 27<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

I do apologise that these have been sent out so close together. But we just want to ensure that the orders are placed in plenty of time for pre-Christmas delivery.

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS

As you will be aware, parent consultations are taking place over the next two weeks, albeit in a different, Covid secure way. Hopefully, you will find the telephone conversations just as informative as a face to face meeting.

If you haven't yet made an appointment, please contact your child's teacher who will be happy to arrange this with you.

### PARKING

We have recently contacted South Ribble Borough Council regarding the traffic issues on Haig Ave at drop off and collection times. The concern has been logged and we are currently awaiting their response.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

A huge congratulations to the children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. They were Jensen, Amelia, Nicola and Nadia. Lesley said it was a beautiful celebration and that the children were amazing. So, well done to all of you. Your families must be so proud – as I am too!

## NEW FAMILIES

This week, we have welcomed several new children to our St. Mary's family – some new faces and some familiar! I would like to say that it is lovely to have you as part of our family and we hope you will all be very happy here.

We have also had new babies born to several families over the last couple of weeks. A huge congratulations to all of you with new additions!

## SOME REMINDERS

### RECEPTION CLASS

Miss Lancaster has recently set up an Instagram account to showcase all of the amazing learning opportunities on offer to our Reception children. Please do take a look at

**@leylandstmarysprimary**

We would appreciate it if you could share this link with anyone you know who has a child due to start school in September 2021.

Also, watch out for our Nursery account launching soon!

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The online admissions applications process for September 2021 is now open. This can be found at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

**The closing date for primary schools is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

If you need any advice or help completing the application, please contact Mrs Brooks in the school office or Julie on 07495161126.

Please remember if your child is a baptised Catholic, you will also need to complete a Supplementary Faith form which can be found on our website at the end of the Admissions Policy 20/21.

### DINNER MONEY AND NURSERY FEES

Please may we politely remind you that dinner money accounts need to be in credit ie we ask that you pay for your child's dinner up front. Please also pay for any additional nursery sessions in advance of your child attending. Thank you.

### LUNCH BOXES

A reminder please to not send in items which contain nuts. This is due to a number of our children having nut allergies. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you again for your support – it means so much.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs O'Mahony