



School Newsletter

With
Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

11.09.20

Dear parents/ carers,

We made it to the end of the first full week and again so far, so good. Your children have been great.

They are staying in their groups, being careful not to mix in areas like the KS2 corridors, they are washing their hands regularly and doing all that is asked of them. They are doing a great job. I am sure many of them came home tired on Friday after a week of work at school.

Thank you, parents, too, for adhering to drop-off pick up arrangements:

- Only one adult per family on site when dropping off and picking up
- Please arrive as near as possible to designated times
- Please do not congregate in groups
- Keep to the one-way system
- Avoid parking on kerbs near school, narrowing footpath space for pedestrians

A couple of further reminders:

Please could we ask you to share the information regarding the one - way system and gates with grandparents/other relatives who collect or drop off your child/children. We have had a few of them this week who have been unaware of any changes!

Please could we ask that you do not allow children to play on the equipment before or after school, or younger siblings whilst waiting to collect at home time. The equipment has been taped off due to Covid 19, however, one or two parents/grandparents have been seen to move this aside in order to allow children to gain access! Thank you.

Illnesses and sickness in school

One of the main controls we have in limiting spread of COVID-19 is that anyone (adult or child) with any one or more of the symptoms of the virus must stay away from school until they are better and for ten days or until they receive a negative test result. If they are in school and they develop these symptoms, then they must leave immediately. Importantly, if they have siblings in school they must also go home immediately. The three symptoms we look out for, as we all know by now, are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In a typical week in school in September there are usually a variety of coughs, colds, sneezes, sickness and fevers. And in normal circumstances we would make a judgement on whether a child should be in school or not. This first full week has been the same.

As you can imagine, at present, we are on high alert for symptoms of the virus as we want to do everything we can to remain open for all children for as long as is possible. So, I would like you to bear with us if you receive a call from us if your child is looking unwell or is telling they are feeling hot or cold and so on.

One of my children has had to self-isolate for two weeks this week due to a positive COVID test in his year group bubble, so I know first-hand how disruptive to a child's education and wellbeing an enforced absence is and to parents going about their work.

I have attached a document, ***COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers*** that was shared by a local headteacher whose children attend school in Greater Manchester which gives a simple, clear explanation and I think will be helpful.

Photographs – A message from Mrs Wilson

Normally at the start of every school year, Tempest Photography visit the school and take individual, sibling and family photographs. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, this year we will be unable to go ahead with plans as normal. However, weather permitting, on Monday 14th September, Tempest will be visiting school to take individual photos, outdoors in class bubbles. We will not be able to take any photos with siblings (with the exception of twins) or after school family groups. Proofs will be sent home and as always, there is no obligation to purchase but wherever possible, we will be asking for purchases/orders to be made online directly with Tempest.

Any class who was due to have PE that day, if you could come in uniform instead for the photographs unless the weather is unsuitable for photographs to be taken outside.

Other health and safety

Please do not send nuts or nut-based snacks in with your child. We want to protect a number of our children with nut allergies. Thank you.

Annual Data Collection Sheets

As we are trying to avoid sending items between home and school, we will not be sending out the annual data collection update sheet. Therefore, we are asking you to inform us as soon as possible of any change of address, contact details e.g. mobile no.s/ email addresses and medical information since last September. Thank you.

Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Free School Meal Eligibility and Pupil Premium Funding

Because all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal, many parents do not realise that they might be entitled to something called **free school meal eligibility**. And we understand why this might be the case because the system is confusing! At St Mary's, we have noticed a fall in the number of infant children whose parents have claimed eligibility since the introduction of free school meals for all infants – other schools have noticed the same.

This free school meal eligibility can be applied for in Reception, Year 1 and in Year 2 even though children are receiving a school meal anyway. And parents in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 can also apply.

Why bother applying if your child is receiving a free meal anyway?

If you think you might be eligible it is very much worth applying for two reasons:

1. Your child will continue to receive free school meals on leaving the infants in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 and beyond
2. The school receives additional money (pupil premium) for children eligible for free school meals (over £1 300 per pupil).

If you receive any of the benefits below, St Mary's School can access this extra funding, called pupil premium.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

How can you find out if you are eligible?

Apply by phone – and you can find out in a matter of minutes!

You can ring the local **Free School Meals and Pupil Premium team on 01772 531809**

It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings.

You will need to provide your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- National insurance number

They will confirm whether you are entitled over the telephone.

Apply by post

Download the application form from <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals.aspx> and return it to your local area education office.

South Area Education Office

Level 1 Christ Church Precinct


County Hall

Preston

PR1 8RJ

Free milk If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 11.09.2020

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Sam W	For fantastic behaviour and being a good role model.
	YR	Olivia	For beautiful manners and being kind to her friends
	Y1	India H	For her lovely neat handwriting
	Y2	Emma B	Always trying her best and keeping her work a high standard.
	Y3	Noah C	Improved concentration (and keeping his shirt tucked in 😊)
	Y4	Jamie B	Always trying his best in school and enthusiastically joining in during lessons.
	Y5	Max	For his excellent effort towards all his learning this week and for answering questions in class linked to our English unit.
	Y6	Louis	A great free verse poem about a magical shop.

Best wishes,

P Smyth

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