



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
<b>Thank You on Behalf of the St Mary's School Staff</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
Please can I say a huge thank you to all those people who have sent such lovely emails, cards and gifts into school to acknowledge your appreciation for the hard work of the St Mary's staff team this year. We are very grateful for your kindness and generosity. Thank you so much.		
<b>Thank You</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
As the term comes to an end, please can I take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff, governor and parent bodies for the incredible support afforded to me during my time as Acting Headteacher. I have been overwhelmed by how supportive, kind and understanding the community has been as I have steered St Mary's through a very strange and somewhat challenging year. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve the St Mary's School Community and I am looking forward to continuing to work for you in my new role as Acting Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Inclusion from January 2021.		
<b>Christmas Wishes</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Staff</b>
The St Mary's School Staff would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and we sincerely hope you find a way to enjoy the festive season, despite the difficulties we are all experiencing. We hope the next few weeks brings some peace and joy to you all.		
<b>Message from Mrs Botterman</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Office</b>
Mrs Botterman has sent the following message.  On Friday I was overwhelmed with the lovely messages, cards, gifts and money received from the school community. I am planning to spend the money on a weekend in York once we are allowed to travel again. After being at St Mary's for so many years it was a hard decision to retire. However, St Mary's will always be a special for me and my family and I hope to return to school for special events. I hope you all have a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. Stay safe. Judith Botterman		
<b>Covid19 Confirmation</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
Please note: Information was sent out to the whole school community earlier today regarding confirmation of Covid19 within our school community. Please can I ask that you take the time to read the letter you have been sent with care and that you follow the directions you have been given regarding this matter.		
<b>Track and Trace – Christmas Holiday Procedures</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
The Government have asked that school leaders make their communities aware of the following information before the end of this term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.</li><li>• For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Please make direct contact with Liz Hills, who will be checking emails on a daily basis for the first</li></ul>		

six days of the school holidays, up to 24<sup>th</sup> December. Contact Liz via email: [head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk)

- If the school receives notification of a positive case, it may be necessary to contact parents/carers and advise close contacts to self-isolate. This will be done by email/text.
- If pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about the pupil's absence until the first day of the new term (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021).

<b>East Sussex Online Discussion Groups</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Office</b>
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We have been sent some Information for some FREE Evening Online discussion groups to help you manage certain situations you may be experiencing with your children at home.

Please find attached information on new popular EVENING 2 – 12 Years ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUPS! Simply email [info@openforparents.org.uk](mailto:info@openforparents.org.uk) to book a free place.

<b>Managing a Meltdown</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Office</b>
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Please find attached information relating to 'Managing a Meltdown' which has been co-produced with parent/carers. Some really useful information and links to additional information.

<b>Hamper Lucky Number Draw</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>FSM</b>
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Thank you to all those who bought lucky numbers for the hamper draw. A total of £297 numbers were sold which is an amazing amount to be added the fundraising efforts by the Friends of St Mary's this term. The lucky number drawn at random for the hamper from Tesco's was number 8, which belonged to our lunchtime supervisor Mrs Foord. There was a second prize of a huge bar of chocolate drawn to number 150 belonging to Arabella in yellow class and third prize of a chocolate reindeer was drawn to number 208 belonging to Alexandra in yellow class.

<b>Payment for School Meals</b>	<b>KS2</b>	<b>Office</b>
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There is an increasing number of parents and carers not paying for their children's school meals in advance. Debit balances are growing and despite reminders being sent frequently, the requests to review and clear outstanding balances are not being actioned. The school meals provider has said that they cannot continue to provide meals where they are not being paid for in advance. In these situations, parents will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child. We appreciate that some people may be experiencing financial difficulties and if so, we have always invited those people to contact to the headteacher in confidence. [Head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:Head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk)

If you need further help on how to pay for the school meals on a day-by-day basis, or to activate an automatic top up facility, please see the help sheets on these links.

#### **Booking and paying for meals**

[https://www.parentpay.com/DOCH/school-support/index.html?page\\_id=9265.html](https://www.parentpay.com/DOCH/school-support/index.html?page_id=9265.html)

Please note that you cannot select menu choices for our school, you can just book the meal for the correct day and choices will be made in class with the morning register. You can only book or cancel meals up to 8.30am on the day.

#### **Bank transfer and auto top-up**

<https://www.parentpay.com/bank-transfer-and-auto-top-up/>

Thank you

<b>Start of Term Three</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
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Just a reminder that the first day back in the New Year will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This is NOT an INSET day. All children will be expected back in school on this day, unless they are too unwell to attend or need to remain off school for Covid19 reasons. Please ensure you inform the school office if your child is absent, in line with normal procedures.

We look forward to seeing you all again in January – for the start of the New Year.