



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
STAFFING	ALL	Liz Hills

I am very pleased to inform you that the school staff have all returned to work this academic year and we are hoping to be able to welcome some new members to the Team over the coming weeks and months. We are in a very fortunate position to have all our staff able to return to work and this will be a huge asset to the children as they return to school to a staff body they know well.

WELCOME BACK	ALL	Liz Hills
--------------	-----	-----------

We are very excited to welcome back the children in Years One to Six on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Staff will be on the Green to meet the children from 8.45 am. Classes will be escorted down the drive as soon as all the children in the class have arrived or at 8.55 am. Please ensure you arrive on time to avoid the children having to wait around for long. If your child is not well enough to attend school, you must call the school office to inform them of your child's absence by 8.30 am. Please ensure you provide details of the reason for the absence.

The staff have been very busy over the course of last week preparing for the children's return to school. The start of a new school year is always a very busy time for staff and it has been even more challenging this year as the school is having to implement new practices, procedures and policies again, in response to the ongoing and ever changing coronavirus situation. It may take additional time for 'normal' beginning of year routines to be set up, e.g. reading books sent home, curriculum letters made available, etc. Your patience as we get the school up and running again would be much appreciated.

In the coming weeks, I have asked staff to focus on three Rs: Rules – Routines – Relationships. The 'rules' are required to ensure that everyone behaves in a way that keeps us all safe. The routines are important to ensure that we are all following practices and procedures to reduce the risk of a coronavirus outbreak in the school and are able to operate the school in a calm and orderly fashion. The relationships we need to rebuild with each other are vital as they will enable us all to feel safe together again. Once the children feel safe and secure they will start to learn again. Some assessments will be taking place across the school over the coming weeks and there will of course be lots of learning. However, the focus really is on ensuring everyone settles successfully and that we all learn to be together again in school.

I ask that you please give the school staff the time they need to settle the children back. There will be an opportunity to meet with teachers remotely soon. If you have any serious concerns about your child's return to school please make contact with their class teacher via email. However, please note that returning to school will be challenging for many children and, in the current situation, any of the following would be 'normal' for children when they return home from a day at school:

- Tiredness
- Hunger
- Not wanting to talk about their school day
- Changes in behaviour
- Challenging of your rules
- Reluctance to complete home learning tasks
- Inability to settle at bedtime

Please give your child some time to settle back to school. It may take them a few weeks, or even longer. Be patient, don't panic and contact school staff if you need support or advice. If we work together in partnership we will be much more successful in getting everyone settled back.

<b>SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>As informed in previous correspondence, operational procedures have been put in place to ensure that pupils remain in their class groups. Where the delivery of some aspects of the curriculum for some groups of children requires class groups to be mixed, we have procedures in place to ensure group distancing measures are still in place. To support the delivery of the curriculum and to ensure that the skills and experience of the school staff is best deployed to support the children's needs, staff will be required to work across class groups, with mixed groups of children and one-to-one with individual children. As I am sure you can appreciate this increases the risk of exposure to the virus for the school staff. Having met with staff and discussed their concerns regarding this risk, in light of their own personal and professional situations and as a staff body as a whole, we have agreed to allow additional protective measures to be utilised by staff at their discretion, depending on the situation. We have discussed and agreed the measures to ensure that the delivery of the learning is not impacted in any way. Please note that staff are able to wear face masks or visors if they feel they need to take additional protective measures in some situations. This may include, but is not exclusive to, at collection and drop off times, during one-to-one situations where closer contact with children is required, during meetings with visitors, in corridors or shared areas on the school site. PPE equipment will also be worn by staff (including gloves and aprons) if necessary when administering first aid or personal care. Staff will talk to children about their use of PPE so that they understand that the additional safety measures are being applied to help keep people safe.</p>		
<b>FACE TO FACE MEETINGS</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>We will be conducting meetings with parents/carers remotely where possible over the coming months. However, there are occasions where face to face meetings on site will be required. These meetings will take place in spaces that allow for a social distance to be maintained and we will require people to wear face masks or visors during these meetings. If the content of the meetings is of a confidential nature we will try to ensure that the location of the meeting allows privacy to be maintained. However, if this is not possible due to the restriction of the site, a telephone meeting will be advised by school staff.</p>		
<b>RECEPTION CLASS MEETINGS</b>	<b>RECEPTION</b>	<b>Reception Teachers</b>
<p>The Reception parent/carers meetings scheduled for the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September will be conducted in the shared area between Reception and Year One. This is not a completely private space so should you wish to discuss something of a confidential nature with us please request a follow up telephone call. Please remember to wear a face covering during the meeting.</p>		
<b>UNIFORM</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Office Staff</b>
<p><b>SHOES:</b> Please note that children do not need to have school shoes for the first part of the autumn term. Trainers are acceptable.</p> <p><b>SCHOOL BADGES:</b> Our apologies but unfortunately our order for more school badges, made at the end of last term, has not yet been completed. Please do not worry if your child's polo shirts, jumper or cardigan does not yet have the school logo attached. We will inform you when the badges are available. Until the badges are available again, the uniform you have sourced without badges will be perfectly acceptable in school.</p> <p><b>SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE:</b> Mrs Pallant has kindly agreed to run another second-hand uniform sale this coming week. The sale will be held between <b>2.30 and 3.00 pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September in the school hall</b>. Please access the school through the hall doors, sanitise your hands on arrival and ensure you are wearing a face covering.</p>		
<b>FRUIT/VEG PROVISION</b>	<b>RED / ORANGE / YELLOW CLASSES</b>	<b>Office Staff</b>
<p>Our fruit and veg supplier will resume deliveries of fruit and vegetables for the children in Key Stage One on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please can we ask that parents/carers of children in Key Stage One classes provide a piece of fruit or veg for their child to have at snack time on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.</p>		

<b>BIRTHDAY TREATS</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
In light of the current Covid19 response, please can we ask that you refrain from sending in treats on your child's Birthday for them to share with the children in their class. We are not in a position at the moment to deal safely with any food bought in from home to be shared. Sorry.		
<b>CARRIER BAG</b>	<b>YEARS ONE TO SIX</b>	<b>Class Teachers</b>
Can we please ask that any child who did not have the opportunity to take home their exercise books at the end of last year, bring a large carrier bag to school with them on Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September to put their books in to take home.		
<b>NHS GUIDANCE – Check if you or your child has coronavirus</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Office Staff</b>
Sent out with this bulletin is a very short document from the NHS detailing how to check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms and what to do if you have. Please download the document and keep it for reference.		
<b>GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE – PHE and NHS Test and Trace</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
Sent out with this bulletin is a letter sent to school leaders this week from PHE and NHS Test and Trace regarding testing and shielding. It is worth having a quick read of this short document.		
<b>CROWBOROUGH NETBALL</b>	<b>YEARS FOUR TO SIX</b>	<b>Office Staff</b>
Sent out with this bulletin is a flier from Crowborough Netball Club offering netball sessions to children in Years Four to Six.		