



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Welcome back everyone	All	Mrs Scanlon

Happy New Year to you all.

It has been so lovely this week welcoming all the children back to school and we have been really pleased with the way they have settled back into their routines and expectations in class. It is wonderful to be back together again.

It continues to be an exciting time here at school, as we look forward to term ahead. We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to St Mary's: Mrs Mottershead as Class Teacher in Year 6, as well as Mrs Pritchard Davies in her role as Midday Supervisor Assistant. I am sure you will join me as we welcome them both into the community here at St Mary's.

This week Year 3 led our whole school assembly, as part of our celebrations for the feast day of the Epiphany and all the children throughout the school have been hard at work at starting their new topics and learning which has included: Reception – finding out all about Dinosaurs; Year 1 – finding out about 2D and 3D shapes, Year 2 – learning about the continents of the world; Year 3 – discovering information about The Greeks, Year 4; investigating facts about Teeth; Year 5 – writing poetry about the Hubble Telescope and Year 6 – writing character descriptions in response to the poem 'The Highwayman'

What a start to the new Year it has been!

Have a restful weekend

Best wishes

Mrs Scanlon

Mrs Dean	All	MrsScanlon
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It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Mrs Dean will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this term. Mrs Dean has worked at St Mary's for more than twenty years and in that time has had many and varied roles and responsibilities throughout her time at St Mary's, which have included: Teaching Assistant, Computing leader, Bursar, Midday Supervisor Assistant, as well as her current role of Finance Assistant.

Mrs Dean will be very much missed at St Mary's and we are all very grateful for all her hard work and enthusiasm for everything she has done for our school and community. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Dean well in her new adventures and endeavours, as well as thanking Mrs Dean for her hard work and support for our children and her dedicated service to our school and community

Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results	All	DfE
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Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that **anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately** and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

School Gates	All	Mrs Scanlon
<p>On our return to school in Term 3 please note there has been a change to our school gates in the driveway.</p> <p>An intercom has been fitted to the gates over the Christmas break to allow separate access to our school, the Nursery and our Swimming Pool.</p> <p>Therefore, this means that from Term 3, the <b>vehicular and pedestrian gates will be closed at all times to the school driveway</b>, apart from when the children arrive at the start and go home at the end of the day.</p> <p>If you wish to gain access to the school, nursery, or the swimming pool you will now need to select the correct intercom which will be clearly labelled and a member of staff will answer and be available to help you.</p> <p>The usual arrangements with regards to our start of the day and end of the day are still in place but as always please note that our gates will automatically open/close at 8.40am – 8.55am and open again at 3.10pm. Please be aware that the flashing yellow light on the side of the vehicular gates indicate that the gates are opening or closing and that caution should be taken.</p> <p>St Mary’s staff will as usual be at the gates at these times to aid our start and end of day arrangements.</p> <p><b>Reminder – School registration is at 8.55am.</b> If your child arrives after this time you will need to <u>accompany your child all the way down the drive</u> using the intercom to access the school office to sign your child in as late.</p> <p><b><u>School Clubs - from Term 3</u></b></p> <p>Please note that the <b>pedestrian gate will open at 4.15pm</b> for parents/carers to enter. The club leaders will then dismiss your child/children to you <b>at their usual exit point from either the hall or the school office.</b></p>		
School uniform expectations		
<p>Please note that from Term 3 our expectation as always is that our full uniform policy including school shoes is followed. We do understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where a child may need to wear their trainers for that day and, in these situations, please just email the office who can notify the class teacher.</p> <p>Please see attached - our school uniform policy.</p>		
Absence	All	School Office
<p>If your child is absent from school, please can you telephone the school office and leave a message stating your child's name, class and reason for absence by 9.am. Unless you have told us that your child will need to be absent for a specified amount of time, such as Covid isolation periods, you do need to call the school each day with a reason for absence. Please select option 2 on the school’s phone system to leave a voicemail or send an email to the office.</p> <p>office@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk</p>		

Thank you.

**Withdrawal from Learning**

**All**

**School Office**

Please can we remind parents to complete a Withdrawal from Learning form BEFORE they consider taking a child out of school. We must know in advance if a child will not be attending school so we can officially record their absence in the appropriate way.

Please see attached Withdrawal from Learning Application form or complete one in the school office in advance of any arrangements.

**Application for Places in Reception class 2022**

**School Office**

The deadline for apply for reception class places for September 2022 is 15 January 2021. If you have a child that is due to start school in September please ensure you apply on line **by next Friday**. Do not miss the deadline.

It is still not too late to book a tour!

Have you have a child that is due to start school in reception class in September 2022? Please remember that the deadline to apply for primary school places is 15th January 2022. If you missed our open events and would still like to visit our school before the application deadline, please call the school office to make an appointment and we will be happy to show you around before the 15th.

Please see the East Sussex Admissions website with details of how to apply.

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/.../admissions/apply-primary>

Please also see our school website with details of our Admissions Policy and our Supplementary Information Form that needs to be completed if your application if you wish to apply in connection with one of the faith criteria.

<https://www.stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk/admissions>

**School Ventilation Measures**

**All**

**Mrs Scanlon**

In order to keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible from the spread of Covid-19 within St Mary's, we are continuing to following the Department for Education 'Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance' closely, including the key strategy of maintaining good levels of ventilation.

To do this, we are balancing the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature within school as much as possible. We are monitoring the ventilation of indoor spaces using government provided CO<sub>2</sub> monitors and responding to these by opening external windows and doors when alerted to increase airflow. However, we recognise that maintaining this level of ventilation and ensuring a consistently comfortable temperature is a challenging at this time in the calendar year.

Therefore, we recommend that children arrive for school prepared for slightly colder indoor temperatures at this time, either by **wearing additional layers under uniforms** or through **keeping on outer layers such as coats while indoors**. We are keen to ensure that the children are comfortable, happy and able to learn to their best whilst we continue to manage this challenging period of Covid-19 measures.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Weekly Online Safety Update**

**All**

**Mr Getty**

**SETTING UP NEW DEVICES**

Following the recent Christmas holidays, many of the children have come into school this week talking about new devices they received as presents, from Nintendo Switches to Kindles.

Technology is a key part of the world we live in today and these devices can have hugely positive benefits for entertainment, communication and access to content. However, it is essential that time is taken to set these up carefully to ensure that our children are kept safe when using new devices at home.

Please **see the attached poster** for tips on how to set up a range of devices with tools such as screentime limits, passwords and family control settings.



**Trim Trail at Collection Time**

**All**

**Mr Getty**

**REMINDER:**

We ask that the Trim Trail on the middle playground is not used after school when the children are being collected from school due to the risk of injury occurring without a member of staff supervising this equipment.

Thank you!

**Attachments**

Withdrawal from Learning Form  
SAMA Karate Flyer