



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

5th February 2021

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Parent/Carer Forum & Remote Learning Parent/Carer Survey	All	Carol Scanlon

This week we sent out a survey to gather feedback on our Remote Learning Offer, which was published on the website and sent to you all on the 25th January 2021. We also held our first Parent Forum on Thursday 4th February 2021.

Parent/Carer Forum

We were delighted to see that twenty people were able to attend our first meeting which included myself, Father Dominic, parents/carers and members of the Governor Board.

The aim of our first meeting was to provide an opportunity for us all to meet together as well as to introduce myself as your new Head of St Mary's and to provide an update on the first five weeks of Term 3. I would like to thank those who were able to attend, but if you were unable to join this meeting on this occasion, please rest assured that we will hold additional parent forums over the coming terms.

Remote Learning Survey

The link for this survey was sent out this week and remains open until Thursday 11th February until 3.30pm. We have had a good response to the survey so far and we would like to thank you for your many positive and helpful comments/suggestions.

If you have not yet completed this survey, we would be grateful if you could do so, as your feedback and comments are very important to us in order for the school to monitor what is working well and how we can develop it further where possible.

In-school/ Remote Learning Provision: Staff Absence	All	Carol Scanlon
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Over the course of the last couple of weeks we have seen a high level of staff absence in school for many different reasons and have, on some occasions, had more than a quarter of the staff unable to be in school. We have used our incredible team of learning support assistants to cover our in-school provision to ensure we continue to limit the contacts for children and staff in school as much as possible, however we have also had to use supply teachers to cover some classes in school at times.

Teachers, even whilst absent from school due to ill health, have continued to set work for their children where possible and it has been a huge team effort. However, we are aware that our capacity has been limited at times and this has impacted on operational procedures relating to both in-school provision and remote learning.

We are fortunate to have a staff team who always step up and support in any way they can, however, our capacity has been and will continue to be affected at times. Therefore, we ask that parents/carers continue to be aware of this, in order to help support the whole school, as we all work hard to navigate our way through this unprecedented time together.

Thank you

Covid19 Compliance	All	Carol Scanlon
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Please can we remind all parents/carers that we ask you to wear a face covering at all times whilst on the school site, unless you are unable to for medical reasons. Staff will not challenge you about not wearing face coverings as

we are expecting people to be responsible and wear a mask or visor if able to. Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe by following this expectation.

Good Bye and Good Luck Mrs McKenzie!	All	Carol Scanlon
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It is with great sadness that we inform you of Mrs McKenzie's departure from the St Mary's Team. Mrs McKenzie will be leaving us, after six and a half years working at the school, to begin a very exciting new adventure with her family in Melbourne, Australia. Mrs McKenzie started at the school as an INA (Individual Needs Assistant), then went on to take over the speech and language provision at the school, worked as part of the Inclusion Team and in recent years added in some class-based support as well.

She has worked with children across the school for many years and will be greatly missed as part of both the Whole School Team and the Inclusion Team. However, we are confident that Mrs McKenzie, her husband, three children and dogs will all settle quickly into their new life down under. They have been planning this big move for a couple of years and their patience and perseverance in making this dream happen has been tested to the limits during the global pandemic. However, they now have flights booked and will be flying off in a few weeks' time. We wish them all the very best and look forward to hearing from them again soon with news of their adventure. If any children or parents/carers wish to send Mrs McKenzie any messages please contact her directly: gemmamc@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

Speech and Language Provision	All	Carol Scanlon
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I am pleased to announce that Mrs Pallant has kindly agreed to take over the Speech and Language Provision at St Mary's from Mrs McKenzie. They have been working together on the transition to ensure that this provision can continue after Mrs McKenzie's departure. I am confident that Mrs Pallant will do well in this exciting new role and I am so pleased to welcome her to the Inclusion Team, which we will continue to develop over the coming weeks and months.

Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations	All	Carol Scanlon
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We plan to hold Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations at the end of term four / beginning of term five, depending on when all children return to school following an easing of national lockdown restrictions. The PPT Consultations will be conducted by phone, as they were in the autumn term. Further details and more information will be made available towards the end of term four.

Safer Internet Day Tuesday 9th February 2021	All	Carol Scanlon
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With many children across the world continuing to learn remotely during the pandemic, there has never been a better time for parents/carers to get involved in the education of their children in the safe use of the internet. The UK Safer Internet Centre has produced some fantastic resources for parents/carers and children to support understanding of safe internet engagement. Please check out the following link to take you to the Centre's Safer Internet Day home page and have a look around. There will be something there of interest to both you and your child/children and even a small amount of time spent engaging with this site will help to keep your child/children safer online.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>



Safer Internet Day - Top Tips for use with 3 - 7s

Safer Internet Day is coming up next week on Tuesday 9th February 2021. For those of you with children aged between 3 and 7 years old why not check out the following link for some great tips about how to support your young children to engage safely with the internet.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-top-tips/safer-internet-day-2021>

Safer Internet Day - Films for 5 - 11s

For children aged between 5 and 11 years old there are a selection of films that have been created to support them in developing their understanding of safe internet use.

Please can I ask that parents/carers review all videos before sharing them with their children. Thank you.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-educator/safer-internet-day-films/films-5-11-year>

Concerned About a Child?

All

Liz Hills

Unfortunately, the lockdown situation increases the vulnerability of many children in our society. As citizens we have a duty to ensure that we do all we can to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable. If you have concerns about a child, or if you are a child in need of help, please contact the NSPCC where there are people trained and ready to offer support, advice and help as needed.

Helplines

[Help for adults concerned about a child](#)

Call us on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

[Help for children and young people](#)

Call Childline on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)

[For supporter, donation and fundraising queries](#)

Call us on [020 7825 2505](tel:02078252505)

If you are concerned about a child or children from the St Mary's Catholic School community please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team in confidence either by phone or email.

Call the school office and ask to speak to Carol Scanlon, Liz Hills or Kate White: [01892 655 291](tel:01892655291)

Email the Safeguarding Team directly: dsl@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

There are people who can help. Do not stay silent.

**ISEND Education Psychology
Service Helpline**

**Parents and Carers of children
with SEND**

Liz Hills

Further to the helpline offered last May onwards, from now until the end of March 2021, the ISEND Education Psychology service is offering a new parents and carers helpline. The helpline will be available to parents and carers of children with SEND to talk with Education Psychologists (EPs) about various areas of concern, including setting routines, positive behaviour, wellbeing and more. Parents and carers of children with SEND will need to leave their name and telephone number as well as a very brief description of the kind of support they're looking for and need. Please note that the service is not to be used for complaints or enquiries about EHCP processes. The ISEND phone number to contact is: 01273 481967. An Education Psychologist will call the parent/carer back between 2pm and 4pm on the next Monday, Wednesday or Friday that is available.

Menu

In school

Office

Menu choices week beginning 8th February 2021

Day	Main Option	Special Diets – Allergy menu Only
Monday	Pizza	Tomato pasta
Tuesday	Macaroni Cheese	Tomato pasta
Wednesday	Roast Gammon	Roast Gammon
Thursday	Fish fingers and Chips	GF Fish fingers and Chips

Jacket Potato options & Tomato Pasta also available each day

Bowles – Half term Activities

Years 4-5 & 6

Office

Further to the message in last week's Bulletin regarding half term activities available to the children of NHS workers. Bowles have been back in touch to say they have now opened these courses up to the children of any critical worker.

All of the information about times, prices, eligibility and so on are here: <https://bookwhen.com/bowles>

The Gift of Giving

All

Carol Scanlon

It has been brought to my attention that the school has received a number of generous contributions over the course of the last year from a number of different people who have wanted to offer support (through the school) to families in our community who may be experiencing financial hardship at this time. If there are other people who would like to give to those in need in our school community in this way please do not hesitate to get in touch. The donations we have received have already been gratefully received by some families in our community who have needed a little additional help at this time. The discrete Gift of Giving, which has been very much a part of our school community for many years now, is just another example of how we make our community so special. If you want to give, please get in touch, in confidence with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or office staff. Thank you.