



St Mary's Together

Term 6 Week 2 Date 12th June 2020

Celebrate Value Awards

Responsible Learners

Cody B, Isabel A

Collaborative Learners

Alfie B, Evie B, Hallie B, Joseph A, Lucy A, Maisie T, Olivia A

Independent Learners

Charlie K, Charlie W, Hal F, Ophia R, Victoria B

Creative Learners

Andrew W, Christopher P, Dita P, Henry L, Landon S-H, Lola B, Lottie D, Mikaela P-D, Zachary W

Reflective Learners

Atwin A, Nathan F, Oliver A

Resilient Learners

Ellis C, Jacob W, Oscar A

Water Bottles



Please can we remind all pupils to have a water bottle in school with a sports cap.

All bottles should be named. The children are able to re-fill their water bottles during the day, but we are not able to provide them with cups or use of a water fountain at this time due to Health and Safety.

St Mary's Together – Down Under!

Well done to all our amazing children for their incredible efforts with their learning this week at St Mary's Together. It has been wonderful to walk around the pupil groups in school, to visit our Facebook page and to look through the class emails to see the wide and varied range of learning that has taken place across the school. I have learnt so much about Australia by examining the work you have shared and it has been brilliant to see the creative and collaborative approaches the children have taken to completing tasks.

Individually we are each one colour, together we make a rainbow.

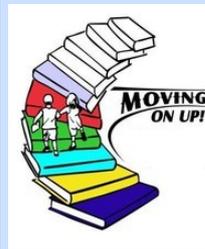


I am incredibly proud of all our children's efforts with their learning and hugely appreciative of the fantastic support given so unconditionally to the children by the staff, parents/carers and wider community at this time. It is so important to ensure we all remember that learning is so much more than the lessons we have at school. Learning is life long.

Well done Team St Mary's Together – this week you have all been amazing!

Liz Hills (Acting Headteacher)

Transition



I just wanted to let you all know that plans for the transition of pupils from one year group to another are underway and I will be sharing with you which teachers will be taking each class in the next academic year, in next week's newsletter. The SLT have worked hard to ensure that careful thought and consideration has been given to the deployment of teaching staff from September 2020, as usual. However, in light of the incredibly unusual circumstances we continue to find ourselves in, more consideration has been given to this than usual to try to provide the best provision we can for all children.

Plans are also underway to ensure we support our new Reception intake as best we can and we will be in touch with these families in the next few weeks too. Transition meetings with secondary schools have taken place and we are working with our secondary colleagues to find ways to continue to support our Year Six pupils as they make their move from primary to secondary school. We are also working on plans to ensure we have the opportunity to say 'goodbye' to our Year Six children and their families before the end of term, though we will ensure that all these children and their families are invited back to celebrate mass with us when we can do so without any restrictions. This is important because after the mass the children will have their party and a 'Leavers' Party' isn't a leavers' party without lots of hugs!

In week four we will be providing opportunities for all children to support their own and each other's transitions as part of our whole school project work. Unfortunately, I do not know when our school will be fully operational again under 'normal' circumstances but we are planning, whilst we wait for further Government guidance on this matter, for a return for all pupils from September. If we need to amend these plans we will, but whilst we wait for time to pass we continue to work hard to have a plan in place to ensure we are able to get our school, St Mary's, back to 'normal' as quickly as possible.

Moving up,
moving on...

Taken from this week's Gospel: Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time—Year A

"Jesus travelled through many towns and villages, telling the people the Good News and healing those who were sick."

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

Can You?

At difficult times it really is the little things that make the biggest difference to people's lives. Following on from last week's request in the newsletter for everyone to try to look beyond their own personal situations to the bigger picture, this week I wanted to ask you all to do a little bit more.

This weekend can you all please try to reach out to someone in our community. Perhaps there is someone you know that might be struggling at this time due to isolation, financial issues, family difficulties, bereavement, employment issues, domestic abuse, mental health, etc.



Can you reach out to them? Can you call? Can you send a card? Can you arrange a social distanced meeting? Can you find some time to make a difference to someone else's life this weekend?

It wouldn't take a lot – just some little acts of kindness that will build and strengthen our community now and for the future. Can you please reach out – there are people in our community who need us right now.

Thank you.



INSET Days

In order to cause the least disruption to the routines we are working hard to maintain at St Mary's Together, (both in school and at home), it has been decided to **cancel the INSET planned for Friday 26th June**. This will now be a 'school day'. As we cancelled the INSET day on the 3rd April as well, we now have two INSET days to re-schedule.

In order to cause the least disruption to the learning at St Mary's Together during term six we have decided to re-schedule both INSET days to the end of the term and the **school will be closed to the children on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd July**.

We are hoping that we will be able to spend these days preparing the school site to re-open for all children in September and to prepare for developments in our curriculum for the academic year 2020-21.

If you have already made plans for the INSET day on 26th June and Government guidance allows for your plans to continue, the school will be supportive of any decision you make to priorities these plans over your child's attendance at St Mary's Together.



Extending In-School Provision

We are very pleased to inform you that we have successfully managed to complete the first three phases of extending in-school provision for more children.

Phase One: Return of staff to the school site for training and preparations to the site.

Phase Two: Extending in-school provision to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

Phase Three: Extending in-school provision to all pupils in reception class.

Unfortunately, at the current time we are unable to action phase four of our plans, extending in-school provision to all pupils in Year One, as our staffing capacity has been reduced.

Due to the rules and requirements regarding social and group distancing, it is not possible to move staff between more than two pupil groups. Therefore, unfortunately until staffing capacity increases we are unable to proceed with stage four of our planned extension to in-school provision.

We appreciate that the whole situation continues to be challenging and frustrating for so many children and their families within our community, but we are doing all we can to ensure we get as many children back in school as we can, safely.

Thank you all for your continued support and patience at this time.