



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 18th September 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Well Done!	Reception	Liz Hills

A huge well done to all the children in Red Class who have had their first full days at school this week. I have been so impressed by the speed with which the children have settled and the way in which they have already started to engage with each other and their learning. Well done and thank you to all parents/carers for the efforts you have gone to to support your child's transition into primary school and the partnerships you have already begun to develop with the school staff. It is, at a time of such uncertainty, an absolute joy to have our next generation of children and families join us. We are really pleased you chose to join the St Mary's School community and to entrust us with the care, development and education of your children. They are a wonderful addition to our school.

Changes to Morning Drop Off	Reception and Year Six	Liz Hills
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We will be starting the first phase of our plans to return the morning drop off and afternoon collection to the school site next week. As of Monday 21st September changes will be made to morning drop off arrangements for children in Reception (Red Class) and children in Year Six (Violet Class). Please ensure you read the following guidance carefully if you have a child in either or both of these classes.

RED CLASS:

- At 8.45 am, one parent/carer, wearing a mask, will take their child down the school drive to the area by the gate into the Reception Class outside area. This is located before the main entrance to the school by the parent shelter.
- Parents/carers need to ensure that they do not crowd around the gate as this creates a security and safeguarding issue. The area needs to remain clear so that Reception staff can see clearly which children are approaching the gate and can resume responsibility for the children safely.
- Once your child has gone into the Reception Class outside area, please leave the school site immediately. This is very important so that the driveway is clear for the rest of the school to enter.
- If you have children in other classes in the school please ensure that you leave them on the Green, once the school staff arrive to take responsibility for them, and then take your Reception child down the drive.
- Please note that the Year Six pupils will also be coming down the school drive between 8.45 and 8.55 am. We ask that you adhere to social distancing measures and avoid contact with these children as you pass on the driveway.
- There are no changes to the end of day collection arrangements at the present time. Please ensure you are outside the entrance to St Mary's Church to collect your child at the end of the school day. Please do not wait on the driveway as this hinders the remainder of the school coming up the drive and onto the Green.

VIOLET CLASS

- Children in Violet Class will no longer be lining up on the Green in the morning.
- The children will be able to walk down the drive on their own from 8.45 am. Please ensure you say goodbye to them at the top of the drive and allow them to come down to the school on their own.
- They will enter the school through the Gold Room door.
- A member of staff will be on the driveway to ensure they come straight into the school and into their classroom.
- There are no changes to the end of day collection arrangements at the present time. The children will be dismissed from the Green as usual.

Illness	All	Office Staff
<p>We currently have a number of children off school with some coronavirus symptoms but have not had a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school. Lots of children and staff are suffering from sore throats, a cough, headaches, tummy upsets and some have a raised temperature. We are working closely with all families in decision-making regarding whether or not children are well enough to be in school, and we are being incredibly well supported by parents and carers in ensuring steps are taken to keep the community as safe as possible at this time. What we are seeing is that people's symptoms are developing into bad colds, which is quite common in schools in September when the children return. However, in light of the current situation, the school community is erring on the side of caution when making decisions about coming to school. This is so very supportive and greatly appreciated by the school. The guidance for the St Mary's School community remains the same regarding illness: please contact the school office if you child is unwell and advice will be given to you as to the best action to take in your own specific circumstances. Thank you for your continued support with this.</p> <p>For details of symptoms of the coronavirus, please check out the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</p>		
Coronavirus Testing	All	Office Staff
<p>As we are sure you are aware, people are experiencing difficulties in obtaining coronavirus tests and there are also problems in processing tests. All schools were sent 10 tests at the start of the year, regardless of the size of the school, and we have been able to order 10 more tests this week. We have no confirmed date as to when these tests will be made available. There is clear guidance from the Government regarding the circumstances in which school leaders can make these tests available, however we are working hard to ensure we use this resource to reduce disruption to the operation of the school and impact on children's learning.</p>		
Home Learning	All	Class Teachers
<p>We are pleased to announce that as from Monday 21st September, any children needing to self-isolate for any reason, will be provided with support to continue their learning at home. If your child/children are in this position you will receive correspondence from the school detailing learning opportunities your child can engage in to continue with their education at home. This support is for individual children. If we find ourselves in the position of having to close whole class groups over the coming weeks or months we will resume St Mary's at Home provision for these classes as we did in March. Thank you for your patience and support as we have worked hard to re-establish the smooth operation of whole school provision again, whilst working to prepare to support the learning of individual children needing to self-isolate as well.</p>		
Meet the Teacher Meetings	Years One to Six	Class Teachers
<p>We are very sorry to announce a temporary delay in the hosting of remote Meet the Teacher meetings with parents/carers of children in Years One to Six. We had planned to host these meetings over the course of next week through Office Teams but unfortunately we have experienced a range of technical difficulties which are preventing us from facilitating these meetings safely. We are currently working hard with the East Sussex ICT Support service to see if the technical issues we are facing can be resolved. If they cannot we will discuss with staff how we can host these meetings in school safely over the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions, queries or concerns please communicate directly with your child's class teacher/s via email. We will do all we can to ensure we work in partnership with you to resolve any matters raised.</p>		

Welcome	All	Liz Hills
<p>We would like to extend a very warm, St Mary's welcome to Father Dominic who has now joined the St Mary's community. Father Dominic has already made several visits to the school to meet the children and staff and is keen to re-establish the important links between the school and parish over the coming weeks. We are looking forward to the children visiting the Church again in the next few weeks and having the opportunity to spend more time getting to know Father Dominic. I am sure many of you have already seen Father on the Green in the mornings and afternoons and are enjoying the bells being rung in the morning to welcome the children to school. Thank you to those of you who have already introduced yourselves to Father Dominic and made him feel very welcome. If you have not yet had the chance to introduce yourselves, please steel a few moments one morning or afternoon to say hello.</p>		
Barnardo's 'See, Hear, Respond' service	All	Office Staff
<p>See, Hear, Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>See, Hear, Respond, provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). See, Hear, Respond will support from pre-birth up to 18 years of age and those with special educational needs under the age of 25.</p> <p>See, Hear, Respond will contact every referral made, so no child is missed. Help is available in one or more of four ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an online hub of support and information • online counselling and therapy • face-to-face support for those most affected and at risk of some of today's most pertinent issues, such as criminal exploitation, and • helping children and young people reintegrate back into school <p>You can access via the 'See, Hear, Respond' service self-referral webpage or Freephone 0800 151 7015.</p>		
Mental Health Support and Advice	All	Wellbeing Team
<p>For information from the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-and-your-mental-health</p> <p>Health in Mind is an NHS organisation providing courses and other types of therapies that help with stress, anxiety and low mood: https://www.healthinmind.org.uk/</p> <p>For support in looking after a child or young person's mental health: https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/?WT.tsrc=search&WT.mc_id=EMMParentsSearch&&gclid=EAlaIqobChMliZGE8ezy6wIVCuntCh3SmACYEAA YASAAEg1PD_BwE</p>		
<p>Attachments to this Bulletin – Studio N Dance Club information and Information about local blood donation session.</p>		