



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Term Two - Independence	All	Liz Hills

Last term we focused as a school on the learning value of **RESILIENCE**. It was an apt choice for us all as we worked hard to adapt and amend our plans whilst striving to resume school life to something as close to 'normal' as possible. It was a long and tiring term in which everyone had to dig deep to keep going and we were certainly ready for the rest the mid-term break provided. However, it was a really positive, productive and successful term with the whole school community continuing to pull together to support the educational and developmental needs of the children in our care.

This term we are focusing on the learning value of **INDEPENDENCE** and the children have already made a fantastic start this week at having a go at doing things on their own. The youngest members of our school community are certainly setting the bar high with the development of their independence, as more of the children from Red Class are coming into school on their own in the mornings. What a great achievement for them all to take such big steps in independence at such an early stage in the school year.

Watching the children in Red Class walk confidently down the drive each morning is a stark reminder to me not to underestimate how amazing children are and how capable they are of doing things for themselves. It reminds me of a quote by the journalist Ann Landers who said, *"It is not what you do for children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings"*. Perhaps this term you can join in with the efforts of the school staff to help our children to become independent, successful people. Maybe there are things your children could do for themselves if you taught them to do them, allowed them the space to learn, gave them the encouragement they need to try and modelled the patience required to persevere.

Lockdown Update	All	Liz Hills
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Following guidance received on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November regarding the second national lockdown I would like to bring your attention to the following operational changes and to confirm some procedures that will remain in place.

### What is Staying the Same?

- The school has agreed that ALL after school clubs can continue but we appreciate that individual club providers may need to cancel their clubs for the time being in order to meet their own guidance and risk assessments. We will keep you informed of any club cancellations as soon as possible.
- East Sussex Music Service have confirmed that they will continue to provide in-school instrumental lessons – so no changes here.
- In line with guidance, we will continue to allow access to the school to outside agencies and other professionals to support the educational development of the children across the school. This means that speech and language sessions, EAL support, educational psychologist visits, social workers visits, etc. will all continue.
- We need to try to limit the number of people entering the school premises so we continue to ask parents/carers to make contact with school staff via email/phone whenever possible.

### What is Changing?

- Some staff may need to work from home over the course of the lockdown period. These staff members may continue to work remotely with children who are in school. Please note that arrangements will be made to ensure any remote learning sessions are supervised and safeguarding measures maintained.
- The Government are clear that schools will continue to remain open during this second period of national lockdown and therefore **attendance in schools continues to be a statutory requirement for most pupils**. However, pupils who were classed as extremely critically vulnerable may need to isolate at this time and school staff will work closely with parents/carers to ensure these arrangements are made. If you think your child may be in this category and you have not made contact with a member of the SLT already, please contact the school office to request a meeting with Liz Hills.
- Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations will take place via telephone. Information has already been sent out regarding the consultations this month.
- Our mini tours for prospective parents/carers are no longer able to take place and so we will be conducting 'live' virtual tours of the school over the coming weeks. These tours will provide prospective parents with the opportunity to see the school in action and to speak to members of the SLT. We are sure all our existing parents/carers will be in support of this exciting opportunity for prospective parents at this challenging time, as we all know so well the importance of choosing the right school for our children and the important role the 'school tour' takes in parent/carer's decision making. In true St Mary's style, it has been important this year to find a way for the children to showcase their school and to be the main feature of the tours, as they are at the very heart of our school. So far the children have been amazing ambassadors for the school, right from Reception Class to Year Six and we are sure they will continue to do a fantastic job.

<b>Government Guidance</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>School Office</b>
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Please note that a copy of the latest government guidance for parents/carers regarding schools has been sent out with this bulletin. A copy can also be accessed via the school's website.

**What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term. 29/10/20**

<b>Hot School Meals</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>School Office</b>
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Now the weather has turned colder, please consider whether your child would benefit from having a hot school dinner during the day. Our kitchen staff work really hard to provide healthy and appetizing meals for the children and would be happy to cater for more children. Children in Red, Orange and Yellow class are entitled to Universal Free School Meals and this seems like a super option for parents/carers to ensure their children are receiving a good quality meal without impacting on the family finances. School dinners are popular with key stage two children as well and even though they have to be paid for (unless your child is entitled to Free School Meals), they are still a cost effective and healthy option for feeding your hungry children. If you are interested in your child having school dinners please check out the home page on the school website's home where there are links to further information and a menu.

<b>Special Diets</b>	<b>Children requiring special diets</b>	<b>School Office</b>
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Chartwells, our school meals provider, has requested an additional safety measure for children requiring medical diets due to food allergies or intolerances. They have issued yellow lanyards with the child's name and the description of the medical diet, e.g. Milk Free, Gluten Free etc. From Monday the children who currently require a special menu will be given their lanyards to wear as they enter the school hall at lunchtime and it will be returned to the supervisors when they leave the hall. This has been introduced to mitigate the risk of incorrectly identifying the children that have special menus should there be a change in any of the kitchen staff or the regular lunchtime supervisors are unavailable.

<b>Family Finances</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>We are well aware that as the Covid19 situation continues to change, people personal situations may change putting a strain on family finances. If you are currently experiencing financial difficulties please check to see if your child is eligible for free school meals. Please consider this even if your child is currently entitled to Universal Free School Meals (children in Red, Orange and Yellow Class) as the eligibility for free school meals not only entitles your child to a free school meal each day but enables the school to access more funding that could be used to support your child's education in other ways as well. Please check out the following link if you think you current situation might entitle you and your child to a little extra help at this time:</p> <p><a href="https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/">https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/</a></p>		
<b>PE - Outside</b>	<b>Year One to Six</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
<p>Where possible we will be continuing to take children's outside for exercise and PE sessions, in line with Government guidance. The PE kit list includes optional tracksuit bottoms for use in the winter months. Please ensure all PE kit is clearly named.</p>		
<b>Keeping Warm</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
<p>Great to see so many children in lovely warm winter coats this week and some hats and gloves appearing in school too. It is so important that the children are able to wrap up warm throughout the winter months as we are committed to providing opportunities for children to learn and play outside whenever possible. Please can we ask that people take the time to name their children's belongings (or better still teach them to name them themselves) so that when belongings go wandering, we have a better chance of returning them to their owners.</p>		
<b>Lost Property</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>The lost property basket in the school entrance is looking rather full at the moment so please can I ask that you complete a bit of a uniform check at home with your child and get them to look through the basket if they have belongings missing.</p>		
<b>Pupil Parent Teacher Consultations</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>School Office</b>
<p>A letter was sent out to parents earlier today detailing the arrangements for pupil/parent/teacher consultations later this month. Please ensure you book up for a telephone consultation with your child's class teacher.</p>		
<b>Social Distancing</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>Please can I remind all parents/carers of the importance of maintaining social distancing whilst on the school site. It is great to have parents/carers collecting their children from the school site at the end of the day but we must ensure it is done so safely. Social distancing is one of our measures to maintain as safe a site as possible. Please ensure you keep your distance from one another at this time. Thank you.</p>		
<b>School Shoes</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Liz Hills</b>
<p>Thank you to everyone for your efforts to support the return of the full school uniform policy, including the wearing of school shoes from the start of term two. We know that many people have experienced difficulties in obtaining school shoes for their children, for a number of different reasons, but are appreciative of the efforts people have made. We will, of course, be understanding of everyone individual</p>		

situation and children will not be reprimanded if they are not wearing school shoes because they have not yet got them. However, if you are experiencing financial difficulties in the purchase of school shoes for your children, please contact Mrs Botterman in confidence as we may be able to offer some support: [ibotterman@stmaryrc.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:ibotterman@stmaryrc.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Shoe Donations	All	School Office
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We are hoping to hold a second-hand uniform sale in the next few weeks and have decided to start offering school shoes if possible. We have had donations of shoes in the past and they have always proved quite popular. Please could we ask families to send in any school shoe donations – in good useable condition – to the school. Your donations would be very much appreciated.

Details of a second-hand uniform sale will be provided soon.

Christmas Cards	All	FSM / School Office
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A ParentMail was sent earlier this week with details. Please ensure your order form (if you wish to order your child's design) is returned to school WITH the EXACT payment BEFORE Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Your child/children should have already come home with their drawings in the last day or two and on the back is an order form to complete and return to the school office in the plastic pocket provided **WITH PAYMENT** by cash or cheque for the **EXACT** amount please.

Please ignore the date on the form. We **MUST** have the forms returned **BEFORE Tuesday 10th November.**

If you wish for a younger sibling who does not attend the school, to create a design too, please let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange for you to have a spare form - [friendsofstmaryscrowborough@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmaryscrowborough@gmail.com)

Firewise	All	School Office
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The East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has sent some information for parents/carers to support them in helping their families to remain safe at home. Please take a few moments to look through the leaflet as it contains important safety information.