



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 27th November 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
It All Went Crazy!!!	All	Liz Hills
<p>Well – what can I say!!! Friday went a little crazy and staff were blown away by the incredible response to our crazy hair day. We were so impressed by the huge response in support of this little moment of madness and by the incredibly creative and imaginative hair styles the children sported. Staff too enjoyed joining in and it was such a joy to hear lots of laughter in the school today. We certainly accomplished our mission to ENJOY our time at school today and, as we all continue to face challenges as a nation and as a world, today reminded us of the importance of having fun when we can and of the tonic of laughter! Thank you so much to the Friends of St Mary's for organising this event and ensuring that all children were able to join in the fun. Thank you as well to everyone who kindly brought in a donation to take part – your money will go to the FSM who continue to provide great support for the children through the fund raising they do.</p> <p>Well done everyone – Team St Mary's is CRAZY!!!!</p> <p>Check us out some of our photos on our Facebook page.</p> <p>Liz Hills</p>		
Parking	ALL	Office
<p>We have had a complaint from a nearby resident of parents parking across a drive way. This is unacceptable, please park responsibly around school and DO NOT block anyone's drive way, this is a criminal offence as there are clear lines on the road.</p>		
No Christmas Cards	ALL	Liz Hills
<p>It is with great regret, that due to the current situation with Covid19, we have decided it is in the best interest and safety of the whole school community to not allow the children to exchange Christmas Cards this year. We hope you can understand this difficult decision we have had to make. There will however, be some festive fun coming up in the lead up to Christmas and we will be ensuring that Christmas does not go unmarked at St Mary's this year.</p>		
FSM Festive Fun Run	ALL	FSM
<p>We are delighted to announce, the Friends of St Mary's will be organising a Festive Fun Run on Friday 11th December. The Children are invited to wear their own clothes and dress up in Festive clothing for the day. During the day, each class will be taking part in a fun run around the running track with a suggested sponsorship donation of £1 per child if you are able to contribute. Santa will also be making a video with a special announcement. This will be shown to the children at some point throughout the day. Please see attached poster.</p>		
Christmas Lunch	ALL	School Office
<p>Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 16th December – Please see attached menu.</p> <p>The children have brought home order forms for the Christmas lunch today. Please can you ensure ALL forms are returned by next Friday 4th December at the latest. It will not be possible to order after this date. There will not be any baguettes, jacket potatoes or pasta served on this day so if your child does not want the Christmas lunch choices you will need to provide them with a packed lunch. Please annotate the order form to this effect and return it to school so that we can monitor replies. Many thanks.</p>		
Attendance	All	Liz Hills
<p>A careful review of pupil attendance across the school has taken place over the last few weeks and I am really pleased to see, through the good levels of attendance we are seeing from pupils across the school, that the community's commitment to the education of their children remains strong. I really appreciate the support from parents/carers in prioritising their children's school attendance and am very mindful of the trust this shows in the school to ensure that children remain as safe as possible whilst in school at this difficult time.</p>		

I will be sending out letters next week to the parents/carers of children whose attendance is between 90 and 95%. It is the responsibility of the school's leadership team to ensure that parents are informed about their child's attendance and these letters will be standardised, serving as notification of your child's attendance percentage.

I appreciate that many children have missed school so far this year as a direct result of the Covid19 response and the need to isolate in some circumstances, and that this factor is beyond parents/carers or children's control. In the same way, I appreciate that children do become ill, and again, this cannot be prevented. However, it is still my duty to inform parents/carers of children's attendance levels when they fall below our target of at least 95% and to follow up with parents/carers if I have any concerns about their child's attendance and to discuss additional support, we may need to action to ensure attendance improves.

If I have any specific concerns about your child's attendance, I will make contact with you directly to discuss this. If you receive a letter next week, but have not received a phone call from me first, please note that the letter is a requirement to report your child's attendance percentages and that I have reviewed their reasons for absence and am satisfied that you are doing all you can to ensure your child is in school, maximising their learning opportunities, when able to. If you have not received any communication from the school about your child's attendance by the end of next week, please note that your child's attendance percentage, as of 20th November is at 95% or higher.

Thank you to everyone for working hard to ensure that the children of St Mary's maintain good levels of attendance at school at this very difficult time. Please can I also ask for people's prayers for those within our school and parish community who are needing to isolate for different reasons or who are suffering themselves from the virus. Please give a moment of your time this weekend to hold these people in your thoughts and to ask God to hold them safely in his hands.

Come on Christmas

All

Liz Hills

As a Christian community Christmas is such a special and important time for us all and we are determined at St Mary's that, though it will be very different this year, we still want to ensure that the joy of Christmas is brought into our school and that it lifts the spirit of our community more than ever. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions we have in place regarding the children's movement around the school, we are finding our Christmas decorations somewhat lacking as we no longer have a central place to display the Christmas tree for all to enjoy. Mr Puddick has come up trumps and dug deep into the depths of the school and has found some additional decorations and a couple of other Christmas trees, so we hope to be able to increase our festive decorations this year in order to ensure they are placed around the school to bring some sparkle to everyone.

I will be getting my Christmas decorations out early this year as I know my own family would benefit from the joy they bring, and I am sure many of you will be doing the same. Perhaps like me you will find you have a surplus of decorations, lights and maybe even an additional tree that still want to sparkle and shine, but perhaps not in your own home. If you would like to donate your unwanted Christmas decorations (lights and trees included) then please do consider the school as a new home. We really want to spread the joy of Christmas right through the school this year and hope that you might be able help us out. Please send any donations or decorations or lights into school via your child. We hope to have the school decorated early next week. If you have a tree you no longer require and are happy to donate, please contact the school office.

Thank you in advance for supporting our endeavours to lift everyone's spirits in the coming weeks. Hopefully, we can make St Mary's sparkle brightly this year.