



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 2nd October 2020

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Thank You	All	Liz Hills

I just wanted to say a really big thank you to all those parents/carers who have taken the time, since the start of term, to provide such positive feedback and thanks for the efforts of the school staff in settling the children back into school life and for making things as 'normal' as possible. It has been a huge effort on the part of the whole school community to adapt to, and continue to adapt to, so many changes and I feel immensely proud to lead such a fantastic school community at this time. The children have done brilliantly and I shared with them today, in Celebration Assembly, how proud I am of each of them for the resilience they have shown over the last few weeks and months – they really have been AMAZING!

Headteacher Recruitment	All	Chair of Governors
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As we continue to navigate through this challenging time at St Mary's, the governors wish to reassure you all that we are continuing our business as usual in providing strategic leadership and direction for our school. At the current time our most important job is to secure long-term leadership for St Mary's by recruiting a permanent Headteacher.

We advertised our Headteacher vacancy on a number of platforms over the summer break and there was a lot of interest in the role. Closing date for applications has now passed and the interview days are due to take place in the coming weeks. We will update you all again once we have completed the interview process.

Lorna Buckwell
Chair of Governors

Covid19 Testing	All	Office
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A member of the school community contacted the school this week to offer support to any parents/carers who may need to carry out a coronavirus test with their child in the coming weeks and months. The offer has come from a nurse who is happy to carry out the test for anyone who may feel uncomfortable completing the test on their own child. If you would like to take up this person's offer of assistance, please contact the school office, in confidence, should the need arise.

End of Day Collection Arrangements	All	Liz Hills
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We are planning to return the end of day collection to the school site on Wednesday 7th October. Further details about the arrangements for each class will be provided early next week but please can I inform you now that ALL classes will be dismissed at 3.15 pm. If you have a child in Years Four, Five or Six you can give permission directly (via email) to your child's class teacher if you want your child to walk up the drive on their own and continue to meet you on the Green. This has been a practice that has been acceptable at St Mary's for a number of years in order to help some of our older children develop more independence, however we ask that parents/carers consider their own child/children's current level of maturity and responsibility before deciding if this is a suitable arrangement for them at this time. Children who currently have permission to walk home on their own or with their siblings will not require further permission to walk up the drive alone and details regarding arrangements for children to meet up with their siblings at the end of the school day to walk home will be given next week. Thank you.

New Mid-day Supervisors	All	Office
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We welcome Jo Allitt and Michelle Maine and who have joined the St Mary's staff team this week as temporary mid-day supervisors. It is wonderful to have this extra support while the school's lunchtime routines have been changed to maintain the children's safety and we are very grateful to Jo and Michelle for agreeing to support our school at this time. Welcome and thank you!

Secondary School Choices	Year 5/6	Office
<p>A reminder that if your child is in Year 5 or 6, you have been invited by Beacon Academy to join the virtual open mornings being held at 9.30 am each day next week. You need to book a place for your child, who is permitted to take time off school to join in the on-line event from home. To register follow this link: http://www.beacon-academy.org/web/join-us/open-days.php</p> <p>Please ensure that you inform the school office if you are attending any day and please come in to school as soon as the event has ended.</p> <p>At St Gregory's they are preparing a Virtual Open Event for prospective parents and students, to provide them with a variety of resources to look at, watch and read in their own time. This will be available from 12 October via their website, www.sgschool.org.uk . We have a supply of St Gregory's printed prospectus books. If you would like a copy please email the office and we will arrange for one to be sent home.</p> <p>If you are in Year 6, please ensure that you apply for your school place by the deadline of the 31st October 2020.</p>		
Considerate Parking	All	Office
<p>Unfortunately, we have received a complaint from a resident of Pollington Place; a private drive very close to the school drive. The resident has informed the school that parents are blocking the drive by parking across the corners of the drive and are also parking in the private driveway itself, which is not permitted. The inconsiderate parking is making it dangerous for the residents to pull out on to Queens Road and near misses were reported where vision had been restricted by cars parked on the corners of the drive or partially across it. Please do not park in Pollington Place and please do not park on the corners of the drive. The resident has stated that they will report cars parked illegally to Operation Crackdown. Please can we ask parents/carers to park considerately at all times to ensure the safety of the school and local community. Thank you.</p>		
Facebook	All	Liz Hills
<p>We have decided to limit our social media use to one platform and we will only be using Facebook from now on. Our Twitter and Instagram accounts have now been shut down. We hope you will set up a Facebook account if you do not have one already, so that you can follow the school and enjoy sharing school life and learning with us in this way.</p> <p>For information on setting up an account please go to the following link: https://www.facebook.com/help/570785306433644</p>		
Influenza Nasal Spray Vaccination	All	Office
<p>Today your child should have brought home a letter and consent from the NHS Immunisation service regarding the influenza nasal spray vaccination that is being offered to all children in the school. The vaccination team will be visiting our school on Monday 7th December. In order for your child to receive the vaccination, we require you to complete the consent form and return it to the school. Please give the consent form to your child to hand in to their class teacher. Please note that we still require the form to be completed and returned even if you are not consenting for your child to receive the vaccination.</p> <p>All consent forms are to be returned as soon as possible but by 13th November at the latest.</p> <p>Attached to this bulletin is an electronic copy of the PHE Protecting your Child Against Flu - Information for Parents leaflet and there is also a second flu booklet aimed at younger children to help them to understand what to expect from the vaccination process in school.</p>		
Friends of St Mary's AGM	All	Office
<p>The Friends of St Mary's AGM will be taking place on Thursday 22nd October at 7:30pm. Due to current circumstances the meeting will take place remotely via Zoom. As always, we extend a warm welcome to all parents and especially to new reception parents.</p> <p>All families are automatically welcomed as a member into the FSM and how active you choose to be is entirely down to you. BUT when we start our calendar of events and fundraising your help would be very much welcome and appreciated!</p>		

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FSM will not be actively running events this term. It is very important that the fundraising that we undertake is all inclusive and suitable for the St Mary's community, as well as safe at these times. I understand that it is disappointing and frustrating for everyone but it is a decision that has been taken in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team at St Mary's after a lot of careful thought and consideration. This decision will be reviewed on a regular basis. We do however hope to be able to do the Children's Christmas Cards that were so popular last year.

We can't wait to be able to start fundraising again. Some of our normal events include our Summer Fair, Easter Egg Hunt, Discos, Class Cake Sales, Craft afternoons, Movie evenings, Mother's Day and Father's Day Sales, Annual Colour Run and the Christmas Fair.

If you are interested in helping with events, please drop us an email at:

Friendsofstmaryscrowborough@gmail.com

The funds that we raise go directly into the school to support the children's education and in previous years we have raised up to £8000 which has bought lots of equipment for the school.

We ask that should you wish to attend the AGM, please could you confirm your attendance on the email above. You will then receive details of how to login to the meeting (pin code and password). You will need to have access to Zoom. Please note your telephone number may be visible on the screen whilst you attend the meeting but we are unable to amend this.

The FSM very much hope that you will be able to attend the annual AGM and an agenda will be sent out closer to the time. If you wish to raise any points at the meeting, please include them in your email so that they can be added to the agenda but please note that at this time, we will not be planning events until we know exactly what events will be possible and safe to run this year.

Kathryn Eels
Chairperson

Healthy, Happy and Safe	All	Liz Hills
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Last year we worked hard to teach the children to be healthy, happy and safe. We have continued with this work this year, with a strong focus on supporting our children to develop and improve their mental and physical health. As part of our work this week we have been reviewing the quality of children's packed lunches across the school and have been really pleased to see some children tucking into some delicious and nutritious lunches. However, we have also been concerned by the lack of fruit/vegetables and healthy savoury foods in some children's lunchboxes. It is so important that children's lunchboxes provide them with a healthy, well balanced lunch that will help fuel their bodies for the rest of their day at school, enabling them to maximise the learning opportunities on offer in the afternoons. Please can we ask that parents/carers either consider taking advantage of the well balanced school dinners on offer every day or review, with care and consideration for their child/children's health, the contents of the packed lunches they provide. For ideas and inspiration for healthy packed lunches please check out the following links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration>

Online Safety	All	Liz Hills
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It has come to our attention that a number of children across the school have been accessing a song via u tube entitled 'Willy Bum Bum'. We have completed an investigation into this song, its origin and context and have been very disturbed by what we found. Please can we ask that parents/carers take some time to find out a little more themselves about the content that their children are engaging with online – what may initially appear like 'something silly' may actually be quite disturbing and certainly not content that you would wish your child/children to be exposed to. Your support in keeping your children safe online is vital.

New Mid-day Supervisors	All	Office
<p>We welcome Jo Allitt and Michelle Maine and who have joined the St Mary's staff team this week as temporary mid-day supervisors. It is wonderful to have this extra support while the school's lunchtime routines have been changed to maintain the children's safety and we are very grateful to Jo and Michelle for agreeing to support our school at this time. Welcome and thank you!</p>		
St Mary's Church Mass Times	All	Office
<p>Fr. Dominic has started holding weekday masses in church on Mondays and Fridays only at 10.15am. Please note that the church is closed for cleaning after mass times and there is no access for private prayer.</p> <p>In addition to this, masses will be held and can be viewed online, streamed through Fr Dominic Mass Live page on Facebook. Follow this link https://www.facebook.com/Frdommass The streamed services will be held at the following times. Monday to Friday 3.00pm Saturday 11.00am & 6.00pm Sunday 9.30am</p>		
Macmillan Morning Tea	All	All
<p>Thank you to all those who donated to our appeal for the Macmillan Morning Tea held last Friday in school. A total of £220.33 was donated and will be sent to the charity to help with their good work. It was really fantastic to be able to continue to support this wonderful charity, as we have done for many years, and to secure the support of the community again, albeit in a different way. A really great start to our charity work this year - thank you.</p>		
Musical Instrument Tuition	All	Miss Heathcote
<p>East Sussex Music Service have resumed, or are in the process of resuming, much of their face-to-face musical instrument tuition in schools. Currently there are children learning the violin, the guitar and the flute at St Mary's. It is also hoped that ukulele lessons for Year 3 children will also be able to begin again shortly.</p> <p>East Sussex Music Service offers tuition in many different instruments. Children and parents/carers can find out more about learning a particular instrument by watching the instrumental videos via the East Sussex Music website/You Tube at the following link: https://www.bhma.org.uk/which-instrument</p> <p>Parents/carers can also meet the Music Team, hear about the benefits and opportunities available through East Sussex Music Service, watch various musical demonstrations and ask questions by following this link: East Sussex https://www.eastsussexmusic.org/parent-carer-meetings Why not give it a try?</p> <p>Documents attached to Bulletin - PHE Protecting your child against flu, Flu Booklet 2020</p>		