

Newsletter

4th September 2020



Learning and caring for each other



Dear Parents/Guardian.

Welcome back... we have all missed you so much and St Mary's did not feel the same place without our wider family.

The new school year has started well with so many smiling faces greeting each other. Throughout the day, children were eager to share their beautiful handwriting, they proudly shared how they had been busy reading, learning times tables and number work and there are some lovely examples of handwriting. We have heard about fishing, gardening, camping in gardens, film nights, zoom type meetings, birthdays, play station games and the exciting news of new babies. Every one has grown (except me!) and I have been proudly shown many pairs of shiny new shoes. These heart-warming conversations have been a huge pleasure and privilege to be part of.

Through the power of technology, we held a whole school virtual google meeting during which we waved to each other in their bubbles, shouted an extremely loud 'welcome back everyone' and we said our own school prayer together for the first time this year. At playtimes, each class played in their own class bubble zone and lunches were eaten in either classrooms or the hall to reduce numbers and to keep children in their class bubbles. This has helped to bring us back together as a St Mary's school family and to quickly reduce any anxieties and worries.

The frequent hand washing, sanitising and additional cleaning is keeping all our children as safe as possible and although social distancing in not possible in classrooms, we have rearrange tables within classes and class bubble do not mix.

This happy start has been possible because your encouragement and guidance has helped all our St Mary's stars to shine brightly and return to school with confidence and resilience after such a long absence so...**thank you!**

We also really appreciate how hard everyone has worked as a school family and for showing they care by using our newly introduced one-way system, by socially distancing at drop off and collection times and by leaving the site as promptly as possible to avoid crowding.

By returning initially to their 'old' class and routines, each class has been able to look back and say goodbye to 2019/2020 school year. They have also been able to return to school in a familiar classroom with familiar teaching and support staff.

Next week, on Monday 7th September, they will start their new school year in their new classes, at the following times:

| Class | Start Time | Finish Time | Collection Gate |
|--------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| Year R | 8:50 | 3:00 | Early Years Gate |
| Year 1 | 8:55 | 3:05 | Early Years Gate |
| Year 2 | 9:00 | 3:10 | Early Years Gate |
| Year 3 | 8:35 | 3:00 | Key Stage 2 Gate |
| Year 4 | 8:40 | 3:05 | Key Stage 2 Gate |
| Year 5 | 8:45 | 3:10 | Key Stage 2 Gate |
| Year 6 | 8:50 | 3:15 | Key Stage 2 Gate |

Just a few reminders:

Emergency Contact Details and Medical Conditions ...If there have been any changes to medical needs or in your contact details (house move or mobile number change) please phone or email school and let Ms Evans or Mrs Edwards know as soon as possible in the office. These will be needed in case of emergencies and will be held confidentially in the office.

School meals... our school kitchen is now open again and after a few teething problems, they will be providing hot or cold packed lunch style meals. There are still choices and if your child would like a meal they will be able to select from a menu in the morning and their choice will be made to order. Please send all payments in weekly, in an envelope via your child and with their name on. School meals cost £2.10 per day but please also check to see if you are eligible free school meals as this can be a great saving for you. If you are not sure how to register, please click on the link: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Earrings...please remove all earrings for health and safety reasons.

School Uniform... please email or phone the office request a copy of the order form from the office.

Please do not hesitate to phone or email school if you would like to speak to Mrs Anstey or as always myself if you would like to discuss anything, if you have any questions and if you have any ideas or suggestions to help us provide a better and safer learning experience each day.

Best wishes, take care and stay safe,
Mrs E. Irvin and all the staff at St Mary's

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