

Newsletter

January 2021



Learning and caring for each other

Dear Parents/Guardian.

Welcome back and I hope 2021 is much happier and healthier than last year.... Just as we were saying goodbye to the Christmas season and thoughts were turning towards the new Spring term, who would have thought we would have been in lock down number three!

On the evening of 4th January when our PM Boris Johnson announced that schools would be closing once again, we were shocked but went into immediate action reviewing vulnerable children and critical worker lists. Thank you to everyone who responded so promptly, it helped us to quickly assess needs and to send email replies before we opened as originally planned on Thursday 7th January.

Remote Learning...thank you so much to everyone who has worked hard at home in guiding and supporting online learning. There has been an incredible amount of effort and we are grateful for all you have achieved at home in the first full week. We know what a challenge this must have been - balancing your own work commitments, online learning, home life (including cooking, cleaning, washing etc), availability of IT equipment, more than one child/adult needing to use the same equipment, slow internet, getting used to Google Classroom, passwords etc. the list is endless! Please remember to be kind to yourselves – you cannot be all things to all people and do everything.

We are still waiting for our limited allocation of Government funded laptops. Once they have arrived, we will be able to allocate them on a loan basis.

If you are struggling with internet connection or costs, we have a limited number of phone SIM cards and we may be able to help you by applying to the Government for a temporary increase in mobile data or by requesting a 4G Wireless router for you. If you think you would benefit from one of these, please contact school.

School meal vouchers... the Government announced that it will be starting the voucher scheme again for those eligible for free school meals. These will be sent every two weeks starting the week beginning 25th January so please look out for your email. If your circumstances have changed or you think you may be eligible, please sign up. The £30 voucher per child, each fortnightly can be used towards a food shop at all the main supermarkets. A lunch parcel will be provided until the voucher scheme is available.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-school-grants-free-school-meals>

St Mary's school places available...if you have a nursery aged child that you would like to join us in September New Intake 2021. Please sign up via [Stockport Admissions](#) ASAP– the closing date has been extended so there is still time. Please remember, siblings are not automatically given a place. In addition, we have some availability in other classes, please let your friends know if they have primary school aged children and if they would like to join us too.

Emergency Contact Details and Medical Conditions ...If there have been any changes in your contact details (email addresses, 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. They will be needed to keep you in touch with latest Government updates and the implications for schools. As always, all information provided, will be held confidentially in the office.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or 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 learning experience, whether remotely or in school each day.

Sending love and virtual hugs,
Mrs E. Irvin and all the staff at St Mary's
<http://www.st-marys-reddish.stockport.sch.uk>