



St Mary's School Newsletter



2 September 2020

Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK

We are so looking forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow morning! Our good news to start with, is that our Year 3 and 4 classrooms are finished and looking lovely and ready for their new children. The corridors are wide and spacious and there are a number of rooms that we can use for small group work. It all does look lovely – but a bit soulless at the moment, as we need the children and all their learning projects to give it heart and soul. I am looking forward to the day upon which I can invite you all into school for a good look round, when all the Covid restrictions are over, or the advice changes. The BIG difference, though is the amount of space – from the different breakout rooms, to the wide, airy corridors. It will take us all a while to get used to it.



One of the first things we will be doing is showing the children around the new space to make sure they are comfortable and confident with where everything is, which is something even the staff are still trying to do! The Year 5 and 6 rooms should be ready soon, but we won't be able to get into them until the work in the roof is completed. (There are all sorts of interesting mechanical, electrical gizmos up there that need to be plumbed in/ calibrated/ joined up, etc.) Fortunately, the builders have broken up the concrete slab in the Phase 4 part of the building, so we won't be subject to the dreadful, and incessant pounding that is very distracting! Roll on January/ February when our Library/ Computer Suite and Multi-purpose room are due to be finished.

Covid Reminders



As I said in my previous letter, things are still very different, and I am hoping that you will continue to support us as we put in place all the measures we can to keep your children safe.

There has been some confusion on social media about when children should and shouldn't be sent into school. The advice we have received is as follows:

- Ensure that all staff and parents are aware of the symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a child or a member of staff has symptoms, or someone in their household has symptoms, they should not attend.
- If a child showing symptoms comes into their school and college setting, staff will isolate the child and make arrangements to send them home.

Here is a reminder of the symptoms:

- Fever and/ or a new continuous cough with any of the following:
 - headaches
 - tiredness
 - muscle ache
 - respiratory symptoms besides cough such as a sore throat, blocked or runny nose
 - gastro-intestinal symptoms can also be a feature of COVID 19 and these are more common in children than adults
 - loss of smell and taste (in some cases this may be the only symptom present)

I know that we are coming up to the winter and that children will develop sniffles, but if they have any of the above symptoms, or indeed, anyone in your household has these symptoms, please do not send your child into school.

We have made up a decision flow-chart to help you decide what to do if you child develops cold/flu symptoms; we are just waiting for this to be authorised by the Education Department and then we will share it with you!

We are requesting that the children come into school in clean school uniform each day – however, we accept that there are some days where this may not be possible, and their own clothes may need to be worn. Similarly, we are requesting that children are picked up by a member of their own household, although similarly, we accept that there may be occasions where this is not possible.

As the weather is becoming quite changeable, could you ensure that they have sun hats and lightweight raincoats where appropriate. I know many of you have had to buy a full set of new school uniform, so please ensure it is labelled so none gets lost.



SEESAW

As we had such success with Seesaw before the Summer break, we will be continuing with this as a way of communicating with you, and also using it to set and take in children's home learning. Please give us a week's grace to change over all the settings (we would have done this during the holidays, had we been able, but the installation of our new server took longer than anticipated) and expect your child to have home learning tasks from Monday 14th September, at the latest. As assemblies are also not happening in the same way as before, we will continue with a Friday Assembly on Seesaw, which will be viewed by the children in school. This does also mean that we can share clips of the children's learning with you on occasions, too. And who knows..? This may have to be our forum for our Christmas acts, as well. (Sorry to mention the C word, so early on!)

We normally have a meet the teacher evening in the second week of term, and, although I'm not quite sure what it will look like, it is likely that we will use videos on Seesaw to provide something similar.

It is all new for us, as for you, and we are doing our best to keep things as normal as possible. However, if you have ideas and suggestions for how we could do things differently, do drop me a line.

If you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, or the school office.

Happy New Year + see many of you tomorrow morning.

Maria Steg