



St Mary's School Newsletter



26 February 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! We've had a very busy week with new furniture arriving, and the last bits of finishing off for the interior part of the building. Mr Michel has worked tirelessly, and everything is gradually taking shape. We have had approval for 'occupancy' but the builders are still working towards the sign off from the Government of Jersey. We do expect this within the next week or so.

The school is looking fantastic. We do still need furniture for the IT suite and the library, and we are ordering new PE equipment and lunch tables, etc. so although we have the building, we still have a lot of work to do in order to make it an amazing learning space. The furniture people have been brilliant, and despite Covid they are working hard to send us what we need in good time.

We are using the new 'old' entrance again. Miss Boydens office has been moved and the entrance to the school has reverted to the front of the school, which you can access by walking through the netball court (where staff are currently parking) and through the corridor made by the heras fencing.



I had some visitors yesterday in for a meeting (headteachers from other schools in the west) and none of them had seen the school since the building project had begun and they were astonished at the changes and how much more space we have. There's a lot to get your head around in terms of new corridors, old corridors leading to unexpected places and just the sheer size of the place – we have 40% more space than before.

I have tended to post lots of photos on Facebook, but recently I have been bumped out of Facebook Business Suite when it updated, and I'm having real problems getting back in, so I apologise for the lack of photo updates there. Hopefully we will have business as usual soon.



Covid

It is great news that the cases of Covid on island are going down. However, the advice from the government to schools is that all the same preventative measures that we have been using over the last few months still have to be in place. This means that we are continuing with the split drop offs and pick-ups, all the handwashing/ hand sanitising and keeping children safe in bubbles. Although much of the island is returning to a more 'normal' existence we are not, and these measures are likely to be in place for the immediate future.



I have been asked to remind you that play dates and sleepovers should not be happening. It is not a school 'thing' I know, but it was a government post on Facebook that heads were asked to share with you, so please consider it shared!

Uniform

We have had a query about when we are going back into uniform as the weather is starting to improve. As the heating is not working consistently again today (it's just teething problems with the new system) it is still quite chilly. Our advice remains that children can come in uniform or non-uniform if you want them to – it's whatever works best for you. The only thing we ask is that the children come in clean clothes each day.



Nursery

Please find attached to this a press release from the Government of Jersey announcing that Nursery places will be funded to 30 hours. Our Nursery will be opening from September 2021, and we HOPE we will be able to invite parents in to look at the lovely new facility soon.



Parents Evening

Please can you email your child's class teacher to let them know whether you would prefer a telephone meeting between 12:30-3:00 or between 3:30-6:00 during the week of 15th March. These will take place throughout the week. We will allocate times as soon as possible and let you know when your appointments are – different year groups meetings may take place on different days, as we only have a finite number of phone lines. We would like all parents to speak to the class teachers at this parents evening, as we have lots to share with you, and we value the dialogue with you to help us all support your children as best we can.



Kind regards,

Maria Steg