



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8th September 2020

Dear Parent

Today is the feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother – let us ask her to bestow her gifts, grace and mercy upon us.

Welcome back to this school year – one which we know will be full of surprises and some inconsistency! We need to be sensible and vigilant both in and out of school. We ask God to bless us all with His great goodness and we pray that we may all do our part to work together with understanding, patience and hope. Let us bless the Lord in the way we work and live together as a school community.

Our school theme this year – to avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love i.e. to love one another as we love ourselves.

In addition to our established school family, we welcome all new families, children and staff. The children have returned looking very smart, thank you!

September is dedicated to the Sorrows of Mary

Beginning of School Day: The morning routine has been working well, in the main, and we thank you for your support in this. ***To tighten things up more – we ask that parents keep to the LEFT as they enter the school drive and depart on the footpath alongside the Parish Centre (righthand side).*** May we remind you to drop your child and go so as not to linger chatting as we all remain vigilant about ourselves and each other. We are still in precarious times.

I have been made aware today, that a number of local schools are closing class or year group bubbles due to children testing positive. We must remain mindful and sensible in these days. Thank you.

A reminder of our routine at this time – PLEASE KEEP TO TIMINGS:

- **KS2 (children in Y3-Y6)** to arrive between **8:15 and 8:30**
- **Children with siblings**, regardless of key stage, to arrive between **8:30 and 8:45**
- **KS1 children** (infants) to arrive between **8:45 and 9:00**

Please note that the EARLIEST KS1 children should arrive is at 8:30 (siblings only) – keeping to this time ensures there are enough staff in the relevant classrooms to look after the children as well as avoiding congestion. Please keep to these timings. Thank you for your support.

The God who Speaks...

Love is the **ONE** thing
that cannot hurt

Ordinary Time – Week 23: Love on another as I have loved you.



your neighbour.

Mixing 'Bubbles'

At St Mary's we have put our children into class groups ('bubbles'). We are aware that children are crossing 'bubbles' outside of school and we have little control over this. However, please be aware that should a child that your child has mixed with, in a timed session such as QUEST learning, test positive for COVID, they will have to isolate for 14 days. Should a child in a class at St Mary's test positive, the whole class will need to isolate away from school for 14 days. In this circumstance, we will revert to home learning and expect all children to submit their work each day.

The siblings of these children (those impacted because a peer is positive), who may be in other schools (and their parents, for that matter) do not have to isolate. Essentially, it is **only** the family with the positive test who must **all** isolate. The rest is precautionary.

There is a flow chart on our school website which details the measures the school takes in the event of a child or adult being symptomatic. Please familiarise yourself with it.

Other COVID measures

All children will need a named water bottle in school, filled with water at home. School can no longer provide cups.

Water bottles go with the children to the canteen or hall when they eat their lunch and remain with them until the end of break.

Children should refrain from bringing in large rucksacks/bags as they only need to bring their lunch boxes into school.

Staggered starts, breaks, lunches and dismissals will remain for the foreseeable future until directed otherwise.

Music lessons – guitar and piano - will recommence with the appropriate safety measures.

PE kit to be worn on day timetabled for PE – TBC for each class.

SWIMMING

We are still awaiting news from Harborne Pool – so are unsure at this time as to whether or not this will be happening. You will know as soon as we do.

After Sports Clubs

We have agreed to continue with chess this term as the groups can be catered for within their 'class bubbles'. There will be NO other after school clubs this side of Christmas. We will review again, once we know how things go over the winter period.

Other Illnesses

Understandably, there is anxiety around the children feeling unwell. This is, however, a normal occurrence during this term and especially given that many children will not have been mingling with others. We would advise that children only need to be tested if they have a high temperature, dry and continuous cough and/or loss of taste and smell.

Yours sincerely,

H M Cusack

H M Cusack
Headteacher

Ordinary Time – Week 23: Love on another as I have loved you.

