



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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9th June 2020

Dear Parent

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart



School Opening / Information:

We welcomed some of our Reception children this week – to a very different school experience from the one they left. The children have been a little subdued but are all aware of the regulations, which is wonderful. Thank you.

Next week a few more children will be starting. As we have stated, if we go over 30 children from Reception, we will need to re-organise the way we open as we simply do not have sufficient rooms to allow other children to return the following week.

Our plan, like a number of other schools, is to open Monday/Tuesday (1st group) – close on Wednesday to deep clean and then open Thursday/Friday for the second group of children from Reception/Y1 and eventually Y6. **Should we need to do this, we will inform you in good time.**

We have compiled a set of 'FAQs' –on website – **for all parents to read**. Please note this is updated regularly in accordance with new government information.

Home Learning

This will continue with the same vigour as before and we want to dedicate to this important service as it impacts the majority of our children and therefore remains one of our key priorities. Due to needing more staff in school, it may be that only one teacher will be overseeing all of the home learning in any given week for each year band. This will not affect the activities or the communication offered via the platform.



Washing Hands! *It is crucial that, as we prepare to return to school in some form, that the children are really well trained in hand washing – 20 seconds with soap, in between fingers etc. If it is the single most important thing to do to protect ourselves (as we have been told), then it is the single most important preparation/training **you can provide** to your child in order to help us all stay safe when we return. PLEASE ensure they know that they **ONLY** need to press the soap pump **ONCE!***

Church Opening for Private Prayer

Fr John is planning and preparing to open the church from next Monday for private prayer. I believe he intends to open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to begin with. This is wonderful news for our faith community.



The God who Speaks to us...

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience but SHOUTS in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C S Lewis

10th week in Ordinary Time



Staff Changes from September:

We have a number of changes to our staffing from September due to staff who are shielding / going on maternity leave or leaving. Most we knew about some time ago and have been able to recruit – so that we have sufficient staffing levels for a September opening. However, in these especially uncertain times, it is even more difficult to recruit as we would wish to, but we face these challenges always with good grace and in confident hope for better days.

Mrs Noone, has already begun her maternity leave and will not be returning in September:

Mrs Keating, begins her maternity leave at the end of this week.

Mrs L Davis, is due to begin her maternity leave in the first couple of weeks in September but may not return if shielding continues to be the expectation.

Mrs McConnell, is also due to begin her maternity leave in September and the same situation applies.

Mrs Hammond, is also in the same position.

Miss Walker informed me last week that she has secured a new position in a school nearer to her home, so will be leaving us at the end of this school year. We wish her all the best.

Mrs Dale and Mrs Healy will be retiring at the end of term – they have both been the backbone of St Mary's over many, many years. Their commitment and the support they have given to so many children is a mark of their ambition for the children they have worked with – limitless! Both Mrs Dale and Mrs Healy will be greatly missed and we ask God to bless them at this new time in their lives. We will mark their retirement at a later date – see below...

Mr Blaney will be retiring from St Mary's at the end of term.

Mr Clinton is acting Deputy Headteacher until Mrs A Davis returns from her maternity leave sometime next term.

Mr Blaney:

I have worked with Mr Blaney for the past 16 years of which the past 15 years have seen him as Deputy Headteacher of our school. To say that Providence shined on us the day he walked into our school is an understatement! Mr Blaney is a measured and considered thinker and diplomat. I have learned many lessons from him over the years that will go beyond my own limited time left at St Mary's.

Mr Blaney has worked in the most committed ways and in a number of differing roles – always eager and ready to serve. He has been fair and firm in all his dealings with pupils, families and staff and has shown consideration, humour and love in equal measure. He will be missed as a leader, a colleague and a friend. May God bless him as he embarks on a new phase of his life.

When we are able to celebrate with him, we will do so in deserved style – we owe him no less. A letter will be sent out before the end of this school year.

Chess Champ – well done Tom!

The English Youth Online Chess Championship was held for the first time last week, which had a large number of England's strongest junior chess players taking part. Tom (Y4) took part and had some excellent results! In the Under 12 tournament, Tom finished on 6½ points from his 9 games, which was good enough to finish in 14th place out of 141 players, despite being an Under 9. Later in the day, he played in two different Under 18 tournaments played with different time limits, and performed very creditably to win more than half of the games that he played in them.

Yours sincerely,

H M Cusack

H M Cusack
Headteacher

10th week in Ordinary Time

