



# St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. C.M. O'Hara B.Ed DPSE



Dear Parents,

Happy 2021. Thank you for your full co-operation as we find ourselves, once more, in Lockdown. Things can only get better as we move towards a future with a vaccine! ☺

Please find below a list of questions that should support you as we move forward, together.

## **What does my child do if they are attending school during Lockdown?**

### **Arrival**

All will be arriving on site at 8.45am. It is therefore imperative that parents maintain a safe distance from each other; wear a mask and avoid all contact with people who are not in their immediate bubble. Children will need to arrive to their usual gates and will then be escorted in by staff. The usual rigorous hand washing, social distancing and expectations will be shared with children, at an age appropriate level. Staff will allow for anxiety and a lack of routine, however, you will be informed if your child is deliberately flouting rules and putting others at risk or in danger.

### **Collection**

At the close of the day (2pm) children will be escorted to their usual gate, by staff. Where there are two classes dismissed from the same gate, younger children will be dismissed first. Please be patient with staff. Safety comes first at all times.

### **Uniform and belongings in school**

All children need to be in school uniform, as usual. Please no additional belongings other than their coat and outdoor wear. Staff will let children know, via the class page, when PE kit can be worn. Again, please ensure that they are appropriately dressed and warm, as they will be outside as much as we can achieve.

### **Lunches and Wraparound credits and payments**

A reduced menu will be provided by our school cooks- including a warm option, a sandwich option and a vegetarian option. This will be free for children in R-Y2. All others will need to pay for the meal via the gateway as usual. Toast will not be available. Fruit is available for those who are hungry, or you can add an additional piece of fruit for snack time. Please, keep it healthy.

Mrs Ward has made a record of all wraparound payments; these will act as credits once we return to normal school and wraparound provision.

Similarly, Mrs Potter is aware of credits for lunches. Once she is aware of who will be accessing lunches, via the gateway, she will be in touch.

## External providers

Additional curricular activities, such as sports and music specialists will be postponed until we can safely return after Lockdown.

## What does my child do if they are **not** attending school during Lockdown?

### Routine

Please establish a routine with your child. Avoid the temptation to let them stay in their pyjamas all day; complete their work lying down. Hard as it is, their positivity will increase if they know the routine and stick to it.

### Work

Remote learning practices vary from setting to setting. Here at SMA, the approach is as follows:

Each morning, on the class page, children will log on to a class video. This will guide them through the main activities throughout the day. Alongside these videos, children will be directed to activities- some video clips, some reading, some maths and a variety of others. Please guide your children to use the video and the activities. They have been thoughtfully prepared and build on prior knowledge. Try, as much as possible, to complete a variety of activities, if not all, throughout the day. Screen time will be limited to 3 hrs, as directed by Government guidelines, and less, in the case of EYFS children. These are strange times and children need to “escape” from their laptops in order to support their mental health.

**Please ensure that your child gets rest breaks and chance to complete physical activity across the day, as part of a safeguarding requirement.**

### Home learning books and resources

Your child may already have their Home Learning book at home. It may be at school. If you need a book, please just contact the school secretaries, who will arrange for your child to have a book waiting for collection, from you. I know that some staff will also be delivering some resources by hand. Please look after these resources and return them, once Lockdown is over. Thank you to the hand delivering team.

### Sharing their achievements with staff

Staff are ready to receive work via the class page. Please give it a try. If this is proving difficult, please email staff who will also be checking their emails. Children can respond via the class page. Staff will feedback over the week- they will also be identifying children who are not accessing the work set, or expectations. Again, this is part of entitlement and safeguarding.

## How can I keep my stress levels, my child's stress levels and my teacher's stress levels down?

- 1) Remember, we have done this before, we can do it again.
- 2) Respond to phone calls, from school, even if you are busy teaching or supporting your child. Staff have only got certain times to contact you before they are back in class.
- 3) Be really patient- everyone in the whole, of England, Scotland, N Ireland and Wales will all be logging onto the internet, tomorrow morning. If it “doesn't work” straight away, give yourself a little breathing time, find something for your child to do and then try again. In almost all cases, last time, people were able to log on, were able to access the activities and were able to upload their work, email it or even drop in a copy of work via the school letter box.

4) Be patient when communicating with staff. They are really working flat out to teach in school and to remote out to you, also. The last thing they need is a negative attitude from you.

5) Be really proud when you achieve something new, or succeed in whatever way with your child. Let them see your pride in them and be as positive as you can be.

6) Know that there is an end in sight.

### **And Finally...**

As always, we are here, from 8-6pm each day to support in whatever way we can. We look forward to hearing from children and their families. Despite what the press says, we have not got limitless amounts of new technology. Some schools have had delivery of 20+ new chrome books or laptops, we have received 8, which are already earmarked for children without. But just ask us, we will do our very best to support you.

Take good care and keep reading the many silly jokes and comments. A smile makes it all much more manageable.

Regards

C.M. O'Hara