



St Mary's Lockdown News 2021

or, "here we go again" 😊

Dear Parents,

1. **Welcome back** – virtually and in person! Happy New Year. We are on Day 6 of 2021 and already we have a new normal to contend with. Team work is key and what a great start so far!
2. **Thank you** - to staff for their total dedication to the changes and their flexible, speedy responses to the need to cater virtually and in the classroom, at the same time. I have heard from many, that the adaptations we have made, have really supported children's learning. We do listen, we do adapt where appropriate and we value your feedback.
3. **Thank you** - to all, for your respect and cooperation with the necessary changes made on Monday evening. Thanks, also, to the very many parents who have recognised the need to adapt their plans to maintain a safe environment for the children and staff in the building. It is impressive to see the level of trust and support that has evolved.
4. **Safety around the site** – Our new risk assessment is very similar to the one we had in March 2020- with children and adults required to work very separately. Children are now back to 1 desk each; staff are masked and adult to adult contact is at least 1m+ if not 2m. It is foreign to us and to the children. The resilience shown by all is phenomenal. That is echoed in the way parents and children are arriving and leaving the building. Again, my thanks for respecting others in our community; keeping distance, leaving the site quickly and keeping your own children in check at all times. I was really sad to see Luciano crying yesterday, when he could not give me a Happy New Year hug. We made do with an elbow bump and a wink. Luciano, please save it for me; It will keep me going through Lockdown 😊

Home Learning **Well done** to those who have already

logged on to the school website, supported their children to:

- find the teachers' videos, on the class pages
- find the resources on there
- use the passwords
- find the homework pages and the activities set
- upload or email the work completed
- retain a smile

We honestly know how hard it is for all of you. That is why we have worked hard to personalise and present information in a familiar way.

We respect the differing time schedules you are using to support your children. And we will be completely supportive of the juggling you are doing.

We have a safeguarding duty to ensure that All children complete a reasonable coverage across any week. We will be in touch to offer support where that is not happening.

We have some ICT devices which we can loan to you and **much ICT expertise** which allows us to troubleshoot the issues you may be facing. **Please, just ask.**

Other news

Exercise is something that will support your children through these difficult days and weeks. Sometimes, because we are so busy "doing all of the work", we forget the need and the value of a good dance, run-around, walk, run, jog, bike ride or just a play in the snow.

Please use the links on the class pages. Please do not expect your child to be tied to a laptop for long periods of time unattended.

Mrs Donovan is already on the case for us and is preparing some specific dances for each class, linked with their wider learning Thank you to her 😊

And Finally...

Yesterday was the Feast of the Epiphany, marking the end of the Christmas season.

The journey of the 3 kings was similar to the one we are on- relentless, frustrating but there was a great end in sight. Keep that in mind!

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"