



Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Angela Folland

Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way

25th September 2020

Headteacher's News

As the national picture continues to change, so do the measures we are taking in our own school to keep our children, staff and families safe. It's a team effort so please read the following update carefully so that you are able to do your part to support us.

Face Coverings

Trust policy is changing from Monday 28th September and all adults on the school site will be required to wear a face covering when in communal areas. What does this mean?

- Staff will wear face coverings when walking around the school or in indoor communal areas
- Staff will not be wearing face covering whilst teaching in the classroom
- Staff are required to wear a face covering when having face to face meetings with parents
- If you are visiting the school (inside the building) for any reason you will be asked to wear a face covering
- **children are not required to wear face coverings at any time**

Test Kits

You will be aware from the media that all schools have a very small number of test kits. There is huge demand on the testing system and we appreciate that if your child is poorly you may want to ask the school for a kit. However, this is the definition given by the Department for Health and Social Care as to when we may use these kits:

Test kits should only be offered in exceptional circumstances to individuals (pupils, teachers and staff) who:

- *Have developed symptoms while at school or your FE provider, and*
- *You believe they may have barriers to accessing a test elsewhere*
- *You believe that if you sent the individual home without a kit, they would not receive a test at all.*

Here is a web link to order a home test kit or book an appointment at a test site:

<https://self-referral.testfor-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Children's Bags and Book Bags

We have seen an increase in children bringing their own bags to school. Initially we asked for them to simply bring a lunchbox and a drinks bottle. To enable the children to bring their lunches, drinks, PE kit, forest school kit, coats etc in, we will allow them to bring a school bag. However please support us by not letting them bring toys, pencil cases, games etc in from home as these things are far more able to be shared. Further information on phonics books coming home can be found below.

School Timings

I appreciate that some parents have to wait a while for older children at the end of the day. The staggered finish is the only way we can reduce larger numbers of adults waiting together. This may not be ideal or convenient but please understand that we are still required, in law, to deliver the correct amount of curriculum teaching time for all age groups.

Social Distancing

Please continue to help us by remaining at least 1m apart from each other whilst on the school site and thank you to everyone for keeping to the one way system!

Important Information

Data Collection Sheets

An annual task that has never been so important! It is vital that we have the correct contact details for you. This is always important but, at the moment, the need to contact parents as soon as a child is displaying symptoms or should we need to isolate a bubble, is essential. Data collection sheets will be coming home today; please help us to help you by returning them by Monday (28th September), so that we have the most up to date information.

Accelerated Reader

Mrs Newton-Browne and Mrs Gordon have been busy working with the Babcock Library Service to begin the huge task of cataloguing and labelling all of the books ready to launch AR. Mrs Newton-Browne has also received great help from the Friends Committee to move forward with the transformation of the library and has made a great start already. Mrs Gordon's Core AR team (Mrs Newton-Browne, Miss Bramley and Mrs Merrit) will be receiving training this week on implementing the programme in the school. The library looks great already and we are as eager to start as the children!



RWI Phonics

The children have all started in their new phonics groups with their phonics teachers this week. They have settled well back into the routine and are enjoying learning their sounds with Fred Frog again. Phonics teachers will be sending out phonics books for their group on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. When they send out new books, the previous book they've had will be wiped and isolated for 2 days as per guidelines. The books which the children will be sent home with will be a Phonics book or a Book bag book at the appropriate level for their group. We ask that children ensure they have their books with them on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday to ensure smooth transition and isolation times. We will not be sending out reading records in order to limit paper transition between school and home but teachers will have a record of books the children are accessing.



Rainbow Wall

The rainbow wall is up! Please keep sending us photos so we can add to it.

Mrs Tucker

Mrs Tucker has decided to leave us at OLSP to spend more time on her family commitments. We will be really sad to see her go - she really does look after our children and families (as well as the staff!) with such warmth and gentleness. We will be advertising next week for an office vacancy at the school so please let us know if you are interested in details.

Friends' News

Following on from the last update, we now have the date confirmed for the Bags2School drop off day on Thursday 8th October. Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 it has now paid out over £36 million. As well as raising vitally needed funds for The Friends of OLSP it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in a sealed bag – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse. Bag2School will be collecting from OLSP on Thursday 8th October. Please bring your sealed bag (or bags!) to the marked out area at school and help us have a really good collection. Many thanks!

Also, and VERY EXCITINGLY, watch this space for the launch of a brilliant competition for the children, which is going to be launched by Teignmouth's incredibly talented artist, Laura Wall. We will have more details of this in the next newsletter!

School Improvement Visit

On Tuesday 22nd September we had our first school improvement monitoring visit of the year by the Trust. Highlights were:

- The Executive Headteacher has responded well to getting the school ready for the return of pupils.
- The Leadership of safeguarding has improved significantly. As a result, there has been a palpable change in the culture.
- The learning environment for Early Years has improved significantly - it is now an inviting space to be with some purposeful activities and higher quality resources.
- Leaders in the school have developed the use of Rosenshine well in the school and is now integral to the planning process.
- The school has established good systems and procedures to minimise the spread of Coronavirus.
- Pupils have settled back into their routines well and behaviour across the school was good.

What we need to focus on now:

- Secure effective remote learning for all children
- Use September's assessment data to close the gaps in learning missed during lockdown
- Continue to develop the quality of teaching using the Rosenshine principles
- Continue to improve provision for children with SEND

Prayer - A prayer of Hope

Dear Jesus, give us the strength

To remain children of hope.

When things go wrong, make us strong.

When we try hard and fail,

Fill us with the hope that comes from knowing that God has a plan for us.

When we feel afraid,, hold us in your care and let us know you're always with us.

Amen

Our Lady and St Patrick's School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rachel O'Sullivan Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs A Folland, Mrs R Gordon, Mrs S Emmerton, Mrs J Osborne Named Governors for Child Protection: Mrs Lorraine Coulter