



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 11th December 2020

Morning Drop-off

Please arrive within these time slots-

UEYs: 9.00 - 9.05am

Yr1: 8.55 - 9.00am

Yr2: 8.50 - 8.55am

Yr3: 8.45 - 8.50am

Yr4: 8.40 - 8.45am

Yr5: 8.35 - 8.40am

Yr6: 8.30 - 8.35am

Siblings can be dropped off together - earliest time for any of your children

Collection Times

PLEASE REMEMBER A FACE MASK

UEYs: 2.55pm

Yr1: 3.25pm

Yr2: 3.20pm

Yr3: 3.15pm

Yr4: 3.10pm

Yr5: 3.05pm

Yr6: 3pm

PE Days:

Year 6: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 5: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4: Monday and Thursday

Year 3: Monday and Thursday

Year 2: Monday and Friday

Year 1: Wednesday and Friday

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Next Week

It's been a busy term in school and next week is set to get even busier!

Despite government restrictions, we have still been able to plan lots of activities for the children to enjoy next week including the following:

- Monday: Years 1 to 6 will watch an online 'Punctuation Christmas Special Show'. All classes will also be working with our Music teacher (Mariella) to record some Christmas songs for parents (see below).
- Tuesday: All children will watch the Compass Theatre online pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk.
- Wednesday: PTA Raffle Draw.
- Thursday: Christmas Jumper Day. All pupils will watch a message from Santa. Also Festive Lunch Box day.
- Friday: Last day of term – Christmas DVDs in class.

Christmas Jumper & Non-Uniform Day

Our Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Thursday 17th December**. The children may also wear their own clothes, Christmas hats and hair accessories - in return for a £1 voluntary donation to our PTA. There will be a box for £1 donations as the children enter school from the Rockingham Road gate.

Festive Lunch Boxes

We know that many of you have ordered a 'festive lunch bag' from our school meals provider – the Pantry. These will be distributed to pupils on Thursday 17th December. Parents providing their child with a home lunch box may also like to send their child in with a special lunch on this day. You may want to decorate your child's lunch bag or pack festive treats such as turkey sandwiches, sausage rolls, mini chocolate yule logs, satsumas, Rudolph the reindeer carrot sticks or any type of party food your child may enjoy. There will be festive music and lights in the Hall (and classrooms) and all pupils will be given a Christmas cracker.



Last Day of Term

Term ends on **Friday 18th December**.

Pupils will finish school at the earlier times listed below:

Early Years	1.15pm
Years 5 and 6	1.20pm
Years 3 and 4	1.25pm
Years 1 and 2	1.30pm

Nursery (Lower Early Years) – LAST DAY TERM

Afternoon Nursery pupils should attend the morning session on the last day of term (Fri 18th December 2020). The session starts at 8:30 am and children should be collected at 11:30 am. If your child is attending full time Nursery and is collected at 10:30am on Friday their timings will be as normal (8:30am to 10:30am). If your child is attending full time Nursery and stays for lunch on Friday they will start at 8:30am, as usual, and should be collected at 1:30pm. Thank you.

Christmas Songs

As you are aware, due to the current restrictions we are unable to perform our much loved Christmas productions. However, we would like to record each class performing a few Christmas songs and share this with you. Each class will be filmed individually in the hall which will be well ventilated and children will observe social distancing. If you do not want your child to be filmed then please let your child's class teacher know (or the school office) via email. Your child should wear their normal school uniform with their Christmas jumper/hat over it, on **Monday 14th December**, the day of filming. Children who do not wish to be filmed can still wear their jumpers and be part of the performance, behind the camera.

Revised Going Home Times - AFTER CHRISTMAS

After the Christmas break, each class will go home at the following revised times:

- 3.05pm: Reception (UEYs)
- 3.10pm: Years 5 and 6
- 3.15pm: Years 3 and 4
- 3.20pm: Years 1 and 2
- 3.30pm: Nursery

We have made these changes so that parents (and siblings) aren't waiting around for so long on the playground after school.

Starting Primary School in September 2021

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, please make sure to apply at your local Borough's website **and** complete a St Mary's application form. Bring the form with originals of child's proof of birth, baptism certificate, Certificate of Catholic Practice and proof of address of child and proof of address of parent to the school office **by 15th January 2021**.

School Lunches

We have been unable to serve hot lunches this term, as it isn't possible to serve these to the pupils whilst keeping our different 'bubbles' apart. Our Early Years, Year 1 and 2 pupils are currently eating in the school hall (in separate areas) with pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 eating in class. We are aware that some local schools are serving hot meals but their school environment, or COVID systems, may be very different to our own. For example, we have decided to designate each of our classes as separate bubbles (30 pupils) - other schools have made the decision to make a whole Key Stage a bubble so that they can mix at lunch/break times (often as many as 120 pupils). This would mean that if a pupil was tested positive, all of the children in their 'bubble' would need to stay at home for 14 days. As a school, we would rather put measures in place to help keep pupils in school as much as possible. We plan to continue supplying the Pantry packed lunches in January but will monitor the COVID situation to reintroduce our hot meals as soon as possible.

Music

Hymn of the week

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=RD_8FUPItZ5Xs&feature=share&playnext=1

Composer of the month

John Williams - Hedwig's theme from Harry Potter

<https://youtu.be/wtHra9tFISY>

Please remind yourself of the Public Health Guidelines below:

Students **MUST NOT** come to school if they, or a member of their household, have **one or more of the main COVID symptoms** or have been tested for COVID.

The three symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Pupils Self-Isolating

If a pupil is self-isolating due to COVID symptoms (or because a member of their household has symptoms) we will set home learning activities through Google Classroom.

Teachers are unable to set these activities on the first day of absence as they are in their class teaching. All pupils will be set activities, from the second day they are absent from school.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event
Mon 14 th Dec	Punctuation Christmas Shows
Tue 15 th Dec	Compass Theatre Pantomime
Wed 16 th Dec	PTA Raffle Draw
Thu 17 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Festive Lunch Box Day
Fri 18 th Dec	Last Day of Autumn Term (Early Finish Times)
Mon 4 th Jan	INSET Day (School closed)
Tue 5 th Jan	All pupils return