



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

COVID-19 UPDATES:

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be well aware I'm sure, [new legislation](#) is due to come into force on Monday 14th September which restricts the number of individuals who may gather in or outdoors to six at any one time. Whereas I do not wish to increase anxiety among our school family at this early stage in the school year, this change in guidance does serve as a stark reminder that we are still – as a community – in the throes of a critical stage in the management of the spread of COVID-19. We should all take confidence from how well our pupils and staff have coped thus far with the new expectations and arrangements at school but continue to be mindful that the risk of the spread of infection among our school family is constant.

At St Mary's, we can all play our part by ensuring that we do all we can to adhere to this new legislation and the Government's ongoing guidance. Within school, you know that we have strictly enforced hygiene and cleaning routines, that we are restricting pupils' movement around school and interactions with others and that we will actively support test and trace procedures so as to help control suspected cases of COVID-19 and to limit the spread of this virus among our school population. In order to support us in these aims we ask that you:

- Continue to encourage good hygiene and hand-washing routines with your child(ren) at all times – even within your own household.
- Ensure that we have your most recent contact details and that parents/care-givers are easily contactable at all times.
- Ensure that, should a member of your household or support bubble develop COVID-19 symptoms, all members of the household self-isolate until the symptomatic individual has been tested and a negative outcome returned.
- Maintain a 2m distance at all times from members of other households and ensure that your child does the same by keeping them under close supervision on your journey to/from school.
- Do not plan get-togethers or parties outside of school which contravene current legislation (ie. Where more than 6 individuals would be present).

We will continue to update you with regards any changes affecting school via our weekly News Bulletin, so I would ask that you take time to read all correspondence thoroughly.

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours in faith,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

IMPORTANT – PARKING AROUND SCHOOL:

As you will be aware, our new arrangements for school drop-offs and pick-ups have been in force for over a week now. We are constantly reviewing our systems to ensure that they are safe and in-line with Governmental guidance on managing the spread of Coronavirus. We have written to all families to encourage, where possible, that families walk to and from school – even should that mean a longer trip at the start/end of the day. Where a parent/care-giver needs to drive some of the distance to school, we would again ask that cars are parked well away from the school grounds to ensure the safety of our pupils and their families.

Specifically, cars should not park (or drop-off) on Duckpool or Dockendale Lane, on any single, double or zig-zag lines, on no-stop markings around school, or directly outside the school gates. Those parking should also ensure that they are parked legally and that they do not block public footpaths, roads, drives or entrance ways.

Over the past week, parking on Dockendale Lane (the lane leading to St Mary's RC Parish Church/ Gate C) has been a problem. We would ask that those who have been parking here find alternative arrangements so as to keep Dockendale Lane as clear as possible to ensure safe exit from school for all our children and their families.

Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS:

We will not be sending data collection forms as normal this year. If there have been any changes to your own contact details (phone number, email address, address etc), or those of an important contact for your child, please email or phone the school office with the up-to-date information. If you are unsure whether you have supplied these details already, to be on the safe side, we would ask you to send them through again.

PUPIL ABSENCE:

We have had a number of runny noses and sore throats this week – which is only to be expected at the start of a new school year. As long as they are not exhibiting any of the main symptoms of Coronavirus, or sickness and diarrhoea (for which we would expect pupils to be off school for 48 hours), please continue to send your child in to school if you feel that they are able to make it through the school day.

ESCHOOLS AND MARVELLOUS ME LOGINS:

We have issued new eschools and Marvellous Me logins for all new starters. Eschools is our home-school communication system which is used for weekly News Bulletins and other important communications. Marvellous Me is an app which teachers will use to share good news about your child. Please return the appropriate reply slips via your child's blue bag.

Pupils have also been issued with their own eschools login details. These will be used to access weekly home learning tasks from their teacher. Please help your child login to their eschool account this weekend to discover their first home learning message of the new school year.

If you are experiencing issues logging in to either of these programmes or in receiving email communications from school, please get in contact with the school office.

PASSING OF ITEMS TO/FROM SCHOOL:

We will only be sending essential items home with pupils each week, and would ask that only essential items are sent in to school. Reading folder or blue bags will be used to transport any essential physical correspondence.

For the time-being, we will not be distributing items sent in from home (such as birthday cards or sweets) so as to limit the potential spread of infection via unnecessary items.

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS:

Letters regarding secondary admissions for September 2021 have been sent home with pupils in Y6 this week. The closing date for secondary admissions is **31st October 2020**.

IMMUNISATION FORMS:

All pupils have been sent home with a letter regarding flu immunisations. These forms must be returned to school by **16th September**. The school will not be able to accept late returns.

PE:

Pupils will begin their PE lessons next week. Pupils should come to school on the day of their PE lessons in full PE kit, which for the upcoming term would comprise:

- A St Mary's PE t-shirt.
- A St Mary's school hoodie (or school sweatshirt/cardigan if your child does not have one).
- A sensible pair of tracksuit bottoms. Shorts may be worn if the weather permits.
- A pair of trainers.

It is very important that pupils are dressed appropriately for a school day, so sports attire should be plain and smart, and in-keeping with our school uniform expectations.

Pupils must still bring a coat in to school in case of poor weather (hoodies are not to be worn in place of coats).

Classes will have PE on the following days:

DAY	CLASS(ES)
Monday	Year 6
Tuesday	Year 5
Wednesday	Year 4
Thursday	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3
Friday	Reception