



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

RETURN TO SCHOOL:

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been fantastic to have all our children back in school after the Easter Break. We hope that this term will be a positive one for all, and though it is vital that we continue to maintain current restrictions and controls to safeguard against the spread of infection among our school community until the end of term, we hope that all our children will enjoy a rewarding and celebratory 12 weeks.

This time last year, we all felt the frustration and heartache of so many missed opportunities of what is routinely a term jam-packed with trips and events – many of which we are able to share with our wider school family. Fast-forward 12 months, we are certainly optimistic that the upcoming term will be a more positive experience for all. You will be acutely aware I am sure of the Government's proposed 'roadmap' out of the various restrictions by which we are presently called to abide. There is a temptation that we consider *come 21st June* that everything can go back to normal however it would be foolhardy of me to suggest that this would be the case. That being said, we certainly hope to plan a number of events for our pupils which will make the lead up to the end of term special and will help prepare them for making the most successful next step in their school careers. We will write in the coming days and weeks with news of these events which will include – in the first instance – information regarding Y6 leavers' events and secondary school transition and Sacramental Preparation for Years 4 and 5.

We look forward to sharing the joys of the Summer term with you all.

Yours in ever-faithful optimism,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

REMINDER – CONTINUING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

Please share these protocols with all adults involved in providing care for your child.

If your child displays any of the following COVID symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change of the sense of smell or taste

it is vital that you:

- **Keep your child and any siblings/household members at home** and isolated;
- **Book a test.** Tests can be booked online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by ringing 119 if you have problems using the online service;
- **Notify school immediately** by emailing wsmcovid@gatedu.org.

You are strongly encouraged to book a test at a testing centre – rather than a postal test – to avoid the delay of critical information to contacts.

If any member of your household or **any close contact that your child has outside of school** develops symptoms, **your child must isolate immediately** and **must not come to school** until a COVID-19 test outcome is received by the symptomatic case.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Pupils may now come to school in their Summer uniform as outlined in our school *Uniform Policy and Dress Code*: [School Policies/Documents \(whickhamstmarys.org.uk\)](http://whickhamstmarys.org.uk).

On sunny days, please ensure that children have had sun cream applied before coming to school and that they have a cap/sunhat in school and a filled water bottle each day. **Please ensure all items of clothing and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name.**

Please also be reminded that pupils must – unless it has been cleared in advance by Mr Wheatley – wear appropriate shoes to school.

Black trainers (ie. a training shoe), fashion shoes or boots are not permitted options.

HAIRCUTS:

Please ensure that all new haircuts are appropriate and in-line with school policy. **Short hair should not be cut shorter than a grade 3 and should not have lines cut in to it (please do not allow the barber to decide on the style!), and long hair must be tied back.**

PE DAY CHANGE – REMINDER:

Please be reminded that Years 1 and 2 will now have PE each Tuesday.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:

After having surveyed families over the Easter break with regards the proposed return of some of our after-school clubs, we have not received the required interest for the clubs to run during the Summer Term. We hope to re-instate after-school clubs in the Autumn Term and will update parents accordingly in the new school year.

SOME HAPPY NEWS:

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Millican gave birth to her first baby – a little boy, Sam – on 28th March. Mum and baby are doing well, and we wish Miss Millican and her family all the best as they embark on this exciting journey together.