



## SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

### RETURN OF OUR WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN:

During the lockdown period and school closure, we have used eschools to share important ongoing messages throughout the week. With school now due to re-open to all our pupils, we will be re-instating our weekly News Bulletin which will be used for all but emergency, or the occasional ad-hoc, communications regarding school.

### LAST PLANNED WEEK OF REMOTE LEARNING:

With all pupils returning to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, next week will be the last planned week for remote learning during the current school closure period. Teaching staff will be returning to their full-time classroom duties, and as such, whereas daily remote learning tasks will be provided for pupils remaining at home, there will be a slight difference to the provision from previous weeks. The focus for the week will be on consolidation and preparation for pupils' return to school, so pupils will be revisiting some of the key learning they have undertaken since the start of term. There is plenty for pupils to be getting on with, but teachers will not be asking to see examples of pupils' work each day, and as such, will not be responding to pupils' eschools messages in the same way as they have been. We hope this will come as a welcome relief for you all following the past two months of gargantuan effort!

### CONTINUING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

With a greater number of our pupils returning to school in just over a week's time, it is vital that we all remind ourselves of the essential protocols for safeguarding against the spread of infection among our school community. **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](mailto: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 should return to school in full school uniform.

We appreciate that throughout the ongoing lockdown period, parents may have struggled to obtain certain elements of uniform, and we will certainly be understanding of the fact that children will not have been able to visit the hairdresser or barber since the start of the year, however it is important that we all strive to maintain the high standards of uniform and presentation expected at St Mary's. We would ask that parents make us aware – by phone or email – if you have any concerns that you are not able to send your child in to school with the appropriate uniform, so that this may be discussed with a member of school staff and support offered where needed.

#### ACCESS TO SCHOOL AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY:

Please be sure to carefully follow all guidance with regards school access.

It is particularly important that parents/carers continue to escort pupils safely and sensibly to the school gate. **Pupils must not be 'dropped off' from a car or waved over the road;** children remain the responsibility of the adult dropping them off until they have passed through the school gates, and if these rules are not adhered to correctly, it presents unnecessary risk for the member of staff supervising the gate.

We would only expect children in Y5 or 6 to walk to/from school independently – as long as we have been informed in advance by parents. Cars must be parked responsibly well away from the school gate even if dropping off a child in Y5 or 6.

#### WORLD BOOK DAY:

This week, we celebrate World Book Day. Teachers will be sharing a menu of activities in which pupils may participate – whether in school or at home – and will be encouraging you to share with us what your child has been up to over the week to celebrate the event. We will not be asking children to dress up, as in previous years – but of course will be more than happy to see pictures of their efforts if they decide that they would like to!

Please see attached a World Book Day token that can be redeemed online for one of this year's £1 titles.

#### TERM DATES 2021-22:

Please see attached the agreed term dates for academic year 2021/22. Please note that inset days have not yet been set for the year and will of course be shared at a later date.