



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Parent Newsletter

March 2021

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Attendance and Progress

It has been great to see very high levels of attendance since we fully reopened. The children have enjoyed returning to the routine of school and have settled back into their classes well. Every day in the school building is important and never more so than the days which lie ahead in the summer term.

Regular attendance will give the adults supporting your child the best chance of assessing and supporting their progress along with preparing them well for their move into a new year group (or school) in September. Let's keep the collective effort going.

Parents' Evenings

We would usually hold these in March but given we have had a mix of children learning at home and on site in recent months, we wanted to give all children plenty of time to settle back into normal classroom life so we could collect information about how they are doing. In this way we can provide information to you which will be of value.

We will be holding virtual parents' evenings during the week beginning 24th May and details about these will follow early next term. In addition, we will provide the annual report as usual in July and together they will give you a good sense of your child's progress, achievements and areas for development as thoughts turn towards next year.

Online Safety

In recent months, many children have spent far more time online than they would usually and we have noticed an increase in some pupils accessing inappropriate video games and potentially unsafe content at home.

Make sure your child's online activity is monitored closely, especially the appropriateness of the material they are accessing, the games they are playing and the people who they are engaging with online. Further information can be found at: <http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk/parents/online-safety/>

Nut Allergies

We have several children in school who have allergies to nuts of different kinds and for this reason we do not serve any food containing nuts or that has been prepared in an environment where they may be present.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please make sure that it follows the same guidelines as we do for our meals and that items or products containing nuts are not part of the lunch.

A Prayer of Reflection

God of Love,
As we think about all that has changed this year,
help us to trust that you are always with us.
As we remember those who have died,
help us to trust they are at peace with you.
As we reach out to others with kindness and care,
may hope shine out in every heart and home.
Amen

Holy Week at St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church have a number of opportunities to join in worship for Holy Week and Easter either on-line or in person.

For all services in church, 2m social distancing and face masks will be required, and there is limited capacity in the building.

Palm Sunday, 28th March: our 10am parish communion in church will include a reading of the passion narrative

Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st: Short Service on Zoom at 9pm, for Zoom details contact Revd Hazel (hazelwhite1@btinternet.com)

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 7.30pm: Service of Holy Communion in Church followed by a watch

Good Friday, 2nd April, 10am: Diocesan service for all ages via Zoom at 10am, register in advance: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJcpc-6qrjlsHd2sKhNI-tdwTqXXH_uJnYw1

Good Friday 2.00-3.00pm: 'an hour at the foot of the cross' in Church with prayers, readings and reflection

Easter Day, 4th April: 8am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel and 10am Parish Communion in church

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously and if you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, then you must contact the school or the Birmingham Children's Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

This number must also be used if you suspect any unlawful or inappropriate contact has taken place with either your child (or other children) online.

ACCESS TO COVID-19 HOME TESTING KITS

Parents/carers of school-aged pupils are now able to access Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing free of charge.

There are two ways for households to get LFD home testing kits:

1. Collect boxes of LFD home testing kits from several locations around the city.
 - a. Collection locations can be found on the site finder tool here: <https://find-covid-19-rapidtest-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>.
 - b. Details of opening times for LFD kits collection at each location are on the site finder tool. LFD home test kit collection times are in the afternoons. Please note that the locations operate in the mornings as symptomatic PCR test sites.
 - c. Parents and family members of pupils who attend Birmingham schools, and staff who provide support services to schools (catering staff, school transport drivers, etc) can visit any of these locations, without an appointment and collect up to a maximum of 4 boxes of test kits for their household members.
 - d. Each box contains 7 LFD home tests that should last one person about a month based on them testing themselves twice a week.

2. Order test kits online here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If as a parent you are testing regularly through work twice a week then you don't need to do additional testing and as more workplaces re-open, we expect businesses to be ensuring that staff returning to the workplace are regularly testing as part of their Covid-19 safety measures.

The results of your test need to be registered on-line or by calling 119: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

Term Dates until July 2022

We finish for the Easter break on **Thursday 1st April** and reopen on **Monday 19th April**. Please look out for a letter next week which explains how to report a case of Covid-19 for a pupil in the early part of this break. In the meantime, find below the term dates for the rest of this year and for the whole of the next academic year:

2020/2021

Sum 1: Monday 19th April to Friday 28th May

Sum 2: Tuesday 8th June to Wednesday 21st July

Closure for polling day: Thursday 6th May

Training day for staff: Monday 7th June

2021/2022

Aut 1: Monday 6th September – Friday 22nd October

Aut 2: Tuesday 2nd November – Friday 17th December

Spr 1: Wednesday 5th January – Friday 18th February

Spr 2: Monday 28th February – Friday 8th April

Sum 1: Monday 25th April – Friday 27th May

Sum 2: Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July

Staff training days (where the school will be closed) are:

-Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September

-Monday 1st November

-Tuesday 4th January

-Friday 22nd July

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Monday 29th March

Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April

Monday 19th April

Monday 3rd May

Thursday 6th May

Monday 24th May – Friday 30th May

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June

Monday 21st June – Wednesday 23rd June

Monday 28th June – Wednesday 30 June

Deadline for entries to the Easter competitions -see bulletin sent out last week

School closed for Easter holidays

School re-opens for Summer term

School closed for bank holiday

School closed to pupils for local elections

Virtual parent evening appointments – more details to follow

School closed for half term holiday

School closed to pupils for teacher training day

Y6 Viney Hill residential trip -) dependent on Government advice and Local

Y6 Viney Hill residential trip -) Authority advice

Further information will follow when decision has been made

