



Saint Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Byrne

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Dear Parents,

The children have made a wonderful start to their new school term. We have been so impressed by the way that they have, so very quickly, settled into their new classes and new routines.

A very sincere thank you, also, to all parents, grandparents and carers who have been so supportive and understanding during this time. It has been a huge help that the staggered start and end to the school day, the one way system and social distance has been adhered to.

We thought you would all find it useful if we put all the important information all in the same place.

Class Bubbles

Your child is spending their day with their class and their class teacher and teaching assistants. Other members of staff may visit your child's class but this will be minimised. They will not mix with other classes. Lunchtimes and playtimes have been staggered to ensure that this happens. At lunchtime, a lunchtime supervisor has been assigned to each class and will look after them throughout lunchtime. In Year 1 and 2, each child has their own pencil class with equipment that is just for their use.

Children will be asked to wash their hands each time they enter or leave the classrooms, when they have visited the toilet and before and after they eat. Hand gel is available in each room, so there is no need for children to bring in hand gel from home.

Lunchtimes and Playtimes

Each class has been assigned an area to play in. Any equipment will be cleaned between groups of children. The children will eat their dinner in the canteen. They will sit together with their class and their food brought to them. Each class will be seated separately. Meals can be ordered through Parentpay (www.parentpay.com) in the usual way. Tables will be cleaned between groups of children.

Arrival and departure from school

Arrivals and departure from school have been staggered slightly to avoid groups of people congregating on the school grounds. We ask that parents drop their children off and leave the school site immediately. Please adhere to social distancing on the school site. Please do not arrive early. This will help to maintain social distancing.

Children in nursery may enter nursery by their usual route, down the side of the school building and be collected in the same way. **In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**, we ask that parents enter the school grounds via the large side gate, adjacent to the church club, near the entrance for Playtots nursery entrance path and leave via the gate onto Pilch Lane.

Please join the queue by following the footpath around the church to avoid crossing the church car park.

Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building unless invited to do so.

Messages and the School office

Please do not pass messages on at the school door. Please contact the school office via email or telephone who will pass the message on for you. Late arrivals will only be allowed to come in when all other gates have closed. Parents and children are



asked to queue outside the school office, 2 metres apart. Only one parent will be allowed into the foyer at a time. Please be patient.

Unwell children or family members

If your child is unwell, please contact the school in the usual way on the first morning of their absence. If we are expecting your child and they do not attend, it is important we know they are safe.

If a child has symptoms of Covid-19, they must not attend school. Please arrange for a test by booking online or calling 119. While waiting for a test, the whole household must self isolate. They must not come back to school until they have the test result. If it is a positive result, they must stay at home for ten days and the household must self-isolate for fourteen days.

If a family member has symptoms for Covid-19, they must arrange for a test and the family should isolate. If the result is positive, the household must self isolate for 14 days. Your child cannot attend school in that time.

If a child becomes symptomatic in school, they will be removed from the classroom and placed in a room on their own, with a member of staff. We will contact you to come and collect them. Please arrange a test. If it is positive, they must self isolate for ten days and the household for fourteen days.

If a positive case is confirmed in school will be in touch with Public Health England for advice and guidance.

Face Masks

You may wish your child to wear a face mask on their journey to and from school. Please be aware that on arrival at school, we will ask you to remove it before your child enters the building. Children will not be wearing facemasks during the school day.

Mobile Phones

Just a reminder, mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the school grounds.

Curriculum

The children will start each day with a 'well-being' check in and well-being activities before moving on to more formal lessons. The national curriculum will be followed. Children will be informally assessed in the first few weeks of school so that any gaps in knowledge can be filled.

Wrap around care

Magpies breakfast club has reopened and must be booked through Parentpay by midnight on Thursday for the following week. Late bookings will not be accepted. The gate on Pilch Lane opens for breakfast from 8.00 to 8.05. Children must arrive at the time. Late arrivals will not be admitted. We hope to open Magpies Afterschool club shortly.

School App

We are now operating our new school App this is called SIMSAPP. You should have received an email with an activation code to enable you to register for this App. Our old App is no longer available. If you have not received your email or are unable to activate your account please speak to the School office. All notifications, newsletters, details of attendance etc. are sent through our school App so it is advisable for you to register this as soon as possible.

Please note that Parentpay is a separate website (www.parentpay.com) and not attached in any way to the school App.

Thank you for your ongoing help and support.

Yours sincerely,

MLByrne

Mrs L. Byrne
Headteacher

