

ST MARY'S NEWS

Ethos statement for this week and next week: I try to be just and fair
I can tell you how I look after myself

Our Virtue for November is HOPE.

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Superkids and Star of the Week

We are still awarding superkid/star of the week certificates for hard work, kindness, achievement etc. Although we cannot have an assembly to share these awards we are having class presentations instead.

November 6th and 13th:

EYU: Eliza Taylor and Joey Forster.

Class 2: Noah Matthewman and Rowen Ware

Class 4: Jocelyn Mensah and Freddy Miles

Class 5: Oliver Newsome and Daisy Jackson

Class 6: Daniyal Hussain and Kian Tindall.

Class 7: Eva Cain and Jaycub Speight

Class 8: Jack Walker and Billy Oates

Class 9: Charlie Ledgard and Yorke Longstaff

Class 10: Keisha Sharif and Logan Thorpe

Class 11: Mohammad Sahil and James Fisher

Miss Liversidge : Spencer Rodgerson

REMEMBRANCE

Whilst we have been unable to mark Remembrance Day as we usually would with Mass and the Yr 2 children walking to the War Memorial we have still marked the occasion in school. Our nursery children have made wreaths and poppy biscuits which they really enjoyed eating! All the other classes have also made wreaths for their classrooms, other activities include various forms of artwork, poetry and writing prayers. The whole school observed the 11am silence. Miss Hart has decorated the prayer garden with fabric poppies (you can see photos on the school Facebook page).

Fr Eamonn is in the process of collating an online Book Of Remembrance- if you would like some of your family members to be included please send in their details (name and date of their anniversary and your name) to the class teacher or via email to office@stmarysbatley.co.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We know families' finances have been impacted due to the Lockdown and more households being furloughed or losing their jobs. Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch or is in Yr R-2 and is given a meal in school you can still claim for Free School Meals. In the event of further lockdown or if your child has to self-isolate you would be eligible for help towards lunches. It has been announced that at Christmas all families who are in receipt of free school meals will be given a £15 voucher for each week for each child in the family. So if you have 1 eligible child you receive £30, 2 eligible children £60, 3 eligible children £90 and so on.

Please go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01484 221928 to see if you can claim.

SEESAW AND ONLINE LEARNING- this past week we have had all the EYU Reception children and class 2 isolating. Mrs Hosier and Mrs Worth have been uploading lessons and activities to Seesaw or Tapestry. Some paper packs have been delivered but these do not cover the children being able to see teaching online. Also paper packs cannot be seen by the teacher and so cannot be marked or your child be given feedback or help if stuck. Please try your logins BEFORE your child has to isolate to ensure they are working.

We have had a small number of laptops given to us by Kirklees. These are now ours to loan out to families who do not have access to an IT device such as an Ipad, tablet or laptop. Relying on a smartphone or android is not ideal and so for any future class bubbles closing or if your child has to stay at home because a family member has tested positive just let us know and we can lend you one of the laptops.

COVID TESTING

At the current time we have 2 sets of testing in the community that we know about.

The first one is through work testing: several local companies and NHS are now testing their staff at least weekly as a precaution in case their employees are positive with no symptoms (asymptomatic) and family members can be tested at the same time. In this eventuality there is no need to isolate unless a test comes back positive. If you return a positive test, you and the family isolate for 14 days as there are no symptoms to act as a marker for when the infection started.

The second type of testing is because a person in the family has symptoms of Coronavirus. If ANYONE in your household has a test because they have symptoms ALL people in the house must stay at home until the result is known. If negative you can all return to work, school etc. If positive, then you all isolate according to the track and trace or information given from the NHS. (Usually 10 days from the start of symptoms for the positive case and 14 days for the other family members.)

In either of the above testing processes if you or anyone in your household tests positive can you ring school immediately. Your child should be collected but you cannot approach the school gates yourself but we can walk your child to your car and see them safely across the road. If this happens over the weekend please email office@stmarysbatley.co.uk and just let us know who your child is and that they are isolating. We will ring you back on Monday to get further details.

IF A CHILD IN SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE OVER THE WEEKEND PLEASE EMAIL

head@stmarysbatley.co.uk immediately as we will have to notify emergency planning Kirklees and decide if a class bubble has to close. This gives us chance to inform the relevant staff and families via text and then letter (which comes via email). Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESSES and MOBILE NUMBERS

If we have to close a bubble initially a text will be sent to the families who have to isolate due to being considered a close contact. Following that all school families would receive a letter-one reporting your child has to isolate or 1 reporting we have a positive case in school but your child does not have to isolate Please make sure the office has both an up to date mobile number and an email address that we can contact you on especially with letter attachments regarding information if your class bubble has to close.

PARKING

Please can parents parking on the top and bottom road be more observant as we have had a few near misses this week resulting in a parent been clipped by a car.