

St Mary's News

Well, when we reopened on Monday 4th January after the Christmas break we weren't expecting to close to the majority of children that evening. Just to let you know, we don't have any extra information than what you all get from the Government briefings. At this moment we don't know when or how we are going to welcome back all the children who are currently working through their school activities.

We are still following all the guidelines we have in place but the virus is still affecting people in our community, last week a staff member tested positive and so the KS1 bubble has already had to close.

Home learning

All children in school have a tapestry or seesaw account and the majority are now active. Work is uploaded daily and includes all subject areas. The difference this time around is we have a legal obligation to teach the curriculum so staff are trying their best to match the online learning, to the paper packs, to the class learning for critical workers and vulnerable children who are attending school. We understand the difficulties in trying to help/enable your children to complete these activities but please persevere especially with the maths and Literacy. Do not be offended if you receive phone calls from school, our safeguarding duties are to contact families regularly especially when we do not see them in person. A lack of any activity on line will also activate a call to see if we can help, whether it is a laptop or a paper pack or just a chat with you and the children to see what the barrier is. Please contact school if you are struggling and we can see what support can be given.

Just to reassure you any work uploaded to the teacher can only be seen by staff and not other children so it is confidential unless permission is asked to share it to the others. Please build in breaks regularly throughout the time the children are working on screen, guidance for adults is 5-10 minutes each hour.

Zoom meetings

Staff are going to hold a zoom meeting regularly so children can keep in touch with each other and may help with motivation as star of the week will still be awarded. Please check your class seesaw account and look for the zoom link. Stars of the week will be included in the next newsletter.

Free School Meal Vouchers

These are now being provided by EDENRED, so we cannot buy our own Tesco's vouchers and distribute them as before. EDENRED vouchers come with a code and can be emailed or printed off in school and delivered to you. They will be provided fortnightly but have a time span of 4 weeks to be spent. We have been advised this is in place until Friday 12th February which would be the last day before half term.

If your circumstances have changed and to check if you might be eligible please go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01484 221928

Please note if you are no longer eligible it is your responsibility to cancel your account, we cannot do it for you.

Positive cases at home

Obviously despite lockdown people still have to go out to work or shop so there is still the risk of transmission of the virus. If you have a positive case within your household and have to isolate could you please inform school. We have been asked to keep informing Kirklees and Public Health England so they can monitor any hotspots or clusters.

Nursery places

Our nursery numbers are getting lower and lower each school year. There is a real concern that it does not remain viable and we really don't want it to close. We have a very small waiting list for September so please contact school or go on the website for SIF2020 form to register your interest for nursery. Any child who is 3 between 1st September 2020 and August 31st 2021 can be accepted (as long as toilet trained) for September. Applications for younger children can be made now so at least we can see what numbers might be likely in the next couple of years.

MASSES for St Mary's

This is an online booking service-please go to www.stmarybatley.co.uk to book a place for Saturday/Sunday Mass. Alternatively Masses are now live streamed, you just need to go on the above website, click live stream and subscribe (free) to the youtube link.