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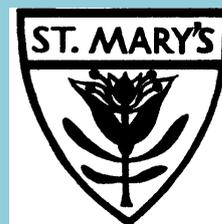


Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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*God is at the centre of our lives and as a school community we try to grow in love and care by following the example of Jesus*



Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents

Re:- September and the new normal

I hope that you are all keeping well and keeping pace with the ever changing events around us. As promised in my last letter I would like to update you on the general direction of St Mary's planning for all pupils to return in September.

Firstly there will be several changes to the structure of the school day. Instead of everyone arriving at the same time and the same entrance we will be building on our current experience to spread arrival and departures over half an hour and through multiple entry points. I will write again at the end of August to confirm times and entry points for each year group. For anyone with more than one child then they will be able to use the earliest drop off time and the latest collection time.

Not only will arrival and departures be staggered but during the day pupils will have staggered break and lunch times to ensure the integrity of their 'bubble'. Another change is that in light of the extra complications of Covid 19 Mrs. Evans will remain in Yr 6 this year and Miss Dainty will be teaching Yr 2 instead. I am certain that both teachers will provide the pupils with the care and support they need as they return to school as well as inspirational lessons.

From September the children will be sat in pairs facing forward as per government advice and we are currently unable to enjoy singing or assemblies together. We would also ask that all pupils wear their PE kit to school on the days on which they have PE. If it is a cold autumn children are welcome to wear track suit bottoms!

For September at least there will be no hot dinners- sandwiches will be prepared by the kitchen for those children who receive free school meals- and lunches will be eaten as a picnic in the classroom. If you wish your child to have a packed lunch prepared by the school kitchens that is no problem and it can be provided at the normal price of £2.30. Also in

September we will continue with our extra middle of the day cleaning for toilets, high use areas of the school and contact points.

Another temporary change is that St Mary's will close at 1 o'clock on Friday to allow additional cleaning. This early closure will ensure that we can maintain the current levels of cleaning across the school with full numbers back. The government advice for schools lays great stress on hygiene- as well as 'bubbles'- as a way of preventing the spread of Covid 19. I apologise if this causes difficulty for some parents and it will only be a temporary measure which will end as we edge out of the 'new normal' and back to a more 'normal normal'!

In the midst of all this change there will be some things that are still the same. Staff will be delighted to welcome all the children back as they are every year and are planning all sorts of exciting activities. There will be Wow weeks and excitement as well as carefully thought out and restructured planning to ensure that our pupils are supported in progressing swiftly to be the best that they can be. Also the same will be the availability of Farlea's provision of 'wrap around care' for those parents who need this support. Our expectations of children in terms of uniform and hair will be the same as in any previous year too so please allow time for colours and shaved areas to grow out! School uniform can be ordered online from Crested School Wear in Cannock. If you need book bags, school ties, nursery cardigans and sweatshirts these will be available to buy from the school office from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September (open 8.30am-3pm).

Please watch out for another letter towards the end of August which will give you more detail about each class and be updated in line with any changes resulting from the ups and downs of Covid 19 or negotiations between the government and unions.

May I wish everyone a lovely summer and say how much I too am looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Mr J Shingler

