

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 6

March 2021



We are delighted to be welcoming back to school all of our boys and girls in P4-P7 on Monday 15th March at 9am. Thank you to our wonderful parents and carers who have supported remote learning since January. We have really appreciated your feedback and support. There will be a survey coming out soon to gather feedback more formally too.

Please read through the guidance for your child returning to school. The Government are asking that parents and carers stick to the **FACTS** guidance at drop off and pick up times in particular. Thank you to everyone who has been working with us to help keep the school as Covid secure as possible. We are indebted every day to our Catering, Cleaning and Facilities Management Staff, who are conducting additional cleaning in the school throughout the day. Thank you also, for respecting the 2m distancing rule in the playground and surrounding areas.

As always, thank you for your continued support at this challenging time.

Mrs Liz Laird – Head Teacher

RETURNING TO SCHOOL – GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS, PARENTS AND CARERS

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| Please drop your child off as close to 9am as possible using the entrances at Rosewell Road and Chesters Court. | Our Learning Assistants are in the playground to supervise the children lining up. No parents are permitted in the playground at morning drop off. |
| P1 & P2 will be dismissed at 3.25pm and 12.10pm on Friday, and one adult is permitted into the playground to collect at the end of the day. Please vacate the playground promptly with your child to ease congestion as other classes are dismissed. | Classes P3-P7 will be dismissed at their usual time. If you are collecting your child, please arrange a suitable place to meet up outside the school grounds and help us to minimise congestion at the gates. |
| All pupils should wear their school jumper on their return to school. Warm joggers or suitable bottoms should also be worn as the children will be outside every day. NO JEANS PLEASE. | Please ensure your child has a waterproof jacket and shoes each day. Wellies can be kept in school. PE will continue to be outside for the time being. |
| PLEASE RETURN ALL CHROMEBOOKS BORROWED FROM THE LOANBANK OR SCHOOL P4-P7 PLEASE BRING IN ALL TASKS COMPLETED AT HOME eg IN JOTTERS, ETC | |
| P1-P3 will continue to have lunches provided by school – PLEASE RETURN YOUR ORDER FORM ON TIME OR WE WILL ASSUME NO LUNCHES ARE REQUIRED THE FOLLOWING WEEK. | Children in P4-P7 should bring a packed lunch to school. BACS payments for FME will continue to the Easter holidays. Please contact the school if providing food is a difficulty at this time. |
| HEAD LICE - this is always a problem when children return to school. Please check your child's hair prior to return and treat the whole family if necessary. | We currently have cases of Head Lice in school – please check your child's hair each night this week and treat accordingly. |

Current guidance from Scottish Government advises that no one should attend our school building without prior arrangement. Should parents and carers require to make contact with staff, we ask that they contact the school office, in the first instance, either by phone on 0131 271 4690 or by email at: stmarys_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Pupils in P4 and P7 will begin their Sacramental Preparation in school from next week. The children will have weekly lessons in school with follow up tasks to be completed at home. The workbooks should come back in to school each week. Please do not complete the home activities ahead of the lessons being taught in school. I will update families as soon as we have agreed dates with Father Allan but this is likely to be late May/June and when restrictions on Collective Worship have been lifted.

A FEW REMINDERS

- **HEALTHY SNACKS** Please provide a small, healthy snack for your child for playtime – this is only 15 minutes so one item is really enough. Please also provide your child with a reusable water bottle to have in the class. This will come home each day to be washed. Please label the bottle with your child's name. **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL – NO NUTS/NUTTY CEREAL BARS/ NUTTY BREAD ETC.**
- **ALL MEDICATION MUST** be handed in to the school office and the appropriate medical form completed. Please do not ever give your child medication to bring to school in their bag. Pupils requiring inhalers need to have two in school – one in class and one at the school office.
- **SCHOOL UNIFORM** Our uniform is a burgundy jumper with the school badge on it and white or pale blue shirt or polo shirt. This can be purchased via www.borders-embroideries.co.uk **PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS ON ALL UNIFORM, LUNCH BAGS, WATER BOTTLES, ETC**
- Please return all permission slips etc by the due date on the information sent home. The Office staff have even more duties to complete on a daily basis due to Covid restrictions and would appreciate you help with timeous returns.
- Please do not send in cake or treats for your child's birthday. We are unable to share these in class and have to be mindful of children with allergies.

*****CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL*****

0131 271 4690

If your child is absent from school – including Nursery - for whatever reason it is your responsibility to inform the school. The school answering service is available for early morning calls, and if possible please phone the school before 9am to report a pupil absence. Please state clearly the name of the child, which class, and the reason for absence. Please also collect your children promptly and telephone the school if you are running late. This is particularly vital if your child is displaying Covid symptoms.

If your child is not at school and we have not had a phone call our Child Protection Procedures are followed to ensure your child is safe. Please ensure that the school has up to date contact details especially if your mobile phone is the main mode of contact. The SMS Text service will be used in the first instance to make contact with you. Where parents cannot be contacted and fail to return calls I will inform the Children and Families Team of repeated absences.

Please remember that we only make a call like this because you have not phoned the school in the first instance, and to ensure that your child is safe. Please be courteous to staff when this happens as we are only doing our jobs and acting in the best interests of your child.

Please also try to ensure that your child is on time for school at 9am. Your child misses important information at the start of the day and it is disruptive to the class and embarrassing for them.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| MONDAY 15 TH MARCH | All pupils return to school |
| FRIDAY 19 TH MARCH | RED NOSE DAY – COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN SOMETHING RED! |
| FRIDAY 26 TH MARCH | ST MARY'S BIG BEDTIME READ BOOK DAY – Come to school in your pyjamas/onesies! |
| TUESDAY 30 TH MARCH | PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS 3.45-5.45PM These will be by telephone – appointment slip coming home on 15 th March |
| WEDNESDAY 31 ST MARCH | PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS 5.30-8.30PM These will be by telephone – appointment slip coming home on 15 th March |
| THURSDAY 1 ST APRIL | END OF TERM 3.30PM – EASTER HOLIDAYS SCHOOL RESUMES FOR ALL TUESDAY 20TH APRIL |



REMEMBER

F – Face Covering

A – Avoid crowds

C – Clean hands

T - Two metre distance

S – Self Isolate

