



September NEWSLETTER

Once again, welcome back to you all. It has been wonderful to see the children settle so well in their new classes and we are so proud of how sensible they have been with the new rules and regulations around school. We now look forward to another year and although it will be different in many ways, we hope it will be both happy and successful for all in the family of St. Mary's.

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring that our correct school uniform is worn by all children. Please remember that from Reception to Year 6 shirts/blouses/polo tops are white, trousers/skirts are grey, jumpers/cardigans are navy blue and sensible shoes are black. As ever, the children look so smart in their uniforms and are a credit to you.

Ensure that your child's name is on each item of uniform so that we can then easily reunite any mislaid items to their owners. Thank you.

Please remember that the wearing of jewellery and make-up is **NOT** permitted at St. Mary's. This includes earrings and nail varnish. The Governing Body expects this essential policy to be supported by all families.

Currently, school begins at staggered times in line with our Covid-19 risk assessment. Pupils in KS2 must be in class between **8.45am and 8.55am** and pupils in EYFS and KS1 must be in class between **8.55am and 9.05am**. This will ensure that pupils are present for registration and the beginning of the first lesson and assist us with a smooth and safe beginning to every day. 100% punctuality is expected of pupils over this next school year and both punctuality and attendance will continue to be checked each half-term by the Education Welfare Officer. We look for your continued support in keeping a high percentage for both.

Children to the end of Key Stage 1 are provided with a piece of fruit per day as part of the national healthy eating scheme. Children in Key Stage 2 can bring a piece of fruit or healthy snack from home to eat at morning break if they wish. Please do not supply any items containing, dipped in or drizzled with chocolate.

Please remember that we are a nut free aware school and nuts/nut products are not allowed. We ask for your support and understanding in this key policy to ensure that our pupils who have a nut allergy are kept safe at all times.

Children are allowed to bring in water bottles to reduce dehydration and aid concentration. They must contain **STILL** water only and can be used by the children throughout the day.

School water bottles can be purchased from the school office for £1.



May we remind parents/carers that following government guidelines children cannot be taken out of school for holidays? If your child/ren have to be absent from school due to **exceptional** circumstances, a written request to the governors must be submitted, via the Head Teacher, explaining the exceptional circumstances **before** the absence begins. A leave of absence form can be obtained from the school office.



For those who use vehicles for the school run we ask that you drive and park in a safe, considerate manner at the beginning and end of each school day. This will show respect for our close residents and ensure the safety of all, in particular the children. Do remember that Father Martin most generously continues to allow the church car park to be used at these times.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to provide you with an autumn term calendar this year and invite you into school as we usually would. The pupils will continue to enjoy many events and celebrate assemblies but these will have to be individual class-based, not shared opportunities, for the foreseeable future. Similarly, after-school activities are not possible at present to allow for quarantine time and cleaning.

As we will be unable to hold our usual September information sessions, all teachers will make a phone call to you over the coming weeks. This will allow the teachers to discuss how your child has settled, provide you with information and answer any queries you may have.

Thank you for your assistance, understanding and support during these unprecedented times. We know that lives are very different at present and some of our new school rules may seem strange to you. However, if we all continue to work together and follow our guidelines we can do everything in our power to maintain the good health, safety and well-being of those in our school and wider community.

On our journey of faith, with Jesus as our guide, we share friendship, value learning and show respect for ourselves and others, as we live, learn, play, work and pray together in our community."

