

St Mary's News 2020

November Issue 10

Dear Parents,

<u>Co-Vid update</u> Once again, my appreciation to Y3 and Y5 parents for their swift responses across the week, in collecting their children. We look forward to the safe return of Y6 on Monday 23rd November. We also look forward to the safe return of Y5 on Monday 30th November, and Y3 on Tuesday 1st December. Individual children from wraparound clubs who are isolating, we are missing you also. We look forward to seeing you as written.

Co Vid Responsibility to others as a community. We have had a small number of anxious parents, across the week, who have expressed this to me in differing ways. These are genuinely anxious times- financially; in terms of health; in terms of childcare; in terms of job security and also in terms of the workload increase for many professions. Christmas is coming, folks. We need clear consciences, moving forward, that we are acting as advised. We do not want to be inadvertently responsible for causing isolations for others, because we are not acting responsibly. For that reason, I have attached a revision guide which I hope is useful as a reference. Please respect the rules we have advised on site. Thank you.

<u>Parents Consultations and Inset Day –</u> Friday 27th November. I have attached a simple reference guide to all parents about the forthcoming Parents' Consultations also. Please read it carefully to maximise the benefits of the calls.

<u>Living our faith</u>. Normally, we would also be asking you to take your child/ren Christmas shopping, at this time of year- for a present to put under our Christmas tree. This year, we will instead be asking for a donation, via the Gateway, towards schools in our locality with significantly deprived pupils. Children can then add a bauble to the school Christmas tree, (once hands have been sanitised) instead of a present. Many thanks in anticipation. The gateway is, therefore, now open for the Christmas donations for needy children in our community.

Reminders

<u>Hands Washing-</u> Children forget very quickly why they need to keep their hands clean and how. Staff will be modelling good hand washing. Please, parents, can you also review this with your children. Some of them are excellent! Some of them have just forgotten.

Christmas Activities- There will be many of these. We intend to celebrate as best we can. Mrs Hayes has written a letter to you all (please find attached) detailing a great link to the community as part of the children's faith journey, during advent. To help others always gives us a sense of achievement and boosts our own self-worth. Really encourage your child to join in with this worthwhile event. Again, thank you in anticipation.

Nursery parents- the Walsall Council Admission application online for Reception places, is now live. You need to apply for your places in Reception in September 2021. This will close on 15th January . Please take the time to complete your application to ensure your child gets a place.

<u>Class pages</u>- Please keep an eye on the class pages. Staff are using these more and more. Homework and home learning will be posted on these pages, regularly.

All communications from parents are now coming through the main office, in almost all cases, once more. Thank you. Please avoid the temptation to use staff's personal emails. This supports their privacy and wellbeing too.

Other news ...

Nursey and Reception Parents. Mrs Smith has set up an Induction Survey to canvas your views. Please could you take the time to complete this for her. It really helps us to know your thoughts. If you visit the website, you will find a tab called Induction- Nursery and Reception parents. If you click on this tab, there is an Early Years' Induction Questionnaire for you to complete. It is simple but really useful to us. Thank you in anticipation.

Forthcoming INSET DAYs are as follows:

- Friday 27th November 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- Friday 12 February 2021

Two of our Wraparound Clubs (Breakfast and After School) are currently being housed in the hall to ensure that the children are safe and separated, whilst staff are isolating. This is a temporary measure and does not apply to EYFS children. All children are safe, but may need you to remind them to show respect and to be responsible and polite, during these

difficult days. So far, children have been fabulous!

And Finally... In the words of Psalm 130: 5 as we build towards a potential vaccine,
"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope".