

St Mary's Lockdown News 2021 No 7

... the end is potentially in sight now!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. They say that the last mile is always the longest, but at least we can now begin to see a possible end in sight. It is great to share with you that 90 tally marks are on our staffroom wall, representing family and friends who have now been vaccinated. This reminds us again, that we are moving forward into safer waters with a rapidly reducing illness and death rate. That is a great feeling to hold on to.

Please find **attached CoVID Reopening letter No 7**, explicitly itemising expectations for a safe return to school on Monday 8th March.

Our Walking for Water Lenten charity incentive is already well on its way! We are delighted to see someone has already contributed, via the gateway. Please engage your child (and yourselves too, if you wish) in combining physical wellbeing with supporting others, financially. The idea is to walk 10,000 steps every day (individually, or as a family or as a bubble). You then pledge an amount each week, as a promise. The more we raise, the more we change people's lives. You are always so generous. Let's see if we can help those in need, once more. Thank you to Mrs Hayes and to CAFOD for support on this one. Please find the letter attached again here, for your convenience.

Confirmation will go ahead, as planned on March 18th at 7pm. All details are available via the website. On the Home Page, there is a tab called *Y6 Sacramental*. Please take the time to read through and share the videos which staff have prepared for you. Thanks to Fr Craig, Mrs Heenan, Mrs Polito and Mrs Hayes for their time in managing this, efficiently.

Our **site security fencing** is almost complete. Thank you for the many comments about it; we all agree, the school looks safer and more welcoming. We still need to have the electronic gates activated and the Nursery border wall reparations. Then works will be complete. Thanks, particularly to Nursery and Reception parents for their co-operation across this week. Nursery and Reception children can, once more be brought down to their gates, as before, by their parents, from Monday 1st March. Mrs Smith Miss Wood and the EYFS team, many thanks for your co-operation too.

Remote Learning Questionnaire. It is great to have found a communication method that you all seem to like! © Over 40% of families' views were captured, via the recent questionnaire and the results are very helpful to us. A summary will be available shortly. Thank you to all of those who took the time to complete it. We have already actioned some of the constructive comments.

We will be asking **for feedback on the EYFS** *Helping your child to Read* **Workshop**, that was shared, via the class pages before half term. If you haven't had chance to have a look at it, please take the time to do so. It really is useful. We will ask for feedback via Google forms, shortly.

February updates and reminders -

- Applications for Nursery places have now been reviewed by Governors. Parents should hear by early next week.
- **Zoom Meetings were again well received.** Next week will be the final chance to Zoom in before our full return. Make sure you are there.
- It was good to hear that the School Council are taking their job seriously. They met virtually, also today. They have offered some great suggestions, as we move forward this year. Thanks to Mrs Smith and her merry band of Councillors.
- Thanks to Mrs Potter and Mrs Ward who keep abreast of relevant safeguarding websites
 and information and post it onto our web zone section of the school website. Have a look
 through when you have a minute.
- PTA 50/50 winners for February are: Mrs E Bridgewood, Mrs MC Anwender, Mr and Mrs Payne, Mr and Mrs Doocey. Congratulations to them all. Cheques will be sent out very soon. Thank you to the loyal PTA Team, also.

And Finally ...

We remember Mrs Joyce and her family in our prayers.



"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"