



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

Birchley Road, Billinge, Nr. Wigan, Lancashire WN5 7QJ

Telephone: 01744 678610 Fax No: 01744 678611 Website: www.bstm.co.uk

Email: stmaryrcbp@sthelens.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Hymers, B.Ed. (Hons)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of an extremely challenging and worrying week, I am writing to you to clarify the arrangements for the children who are attending school on Monday. If you, or your partner is a key worker; if your child has an Educational Health Care Plan or if your child is classed as vulnerable then you are able to use the school as a care facility, but Please note that school must only be used as a last resort for child care – if we are to be successful in helping to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

If your child is attending please note the following:

- ABC will be open as usual from 7.30am – 5.30pm. If numbers using the club are not sufficient, then we will need to review this as the weeks go on.
- All children need to enter school via the front door from 8.45am (if not using ABC Club).
- Children do not need to wear school uniform. They can wear tracksuits & trainers & outdoor coats as we will be spending lots of time outside – weather permitting.
- Please don't send your child to school in their 'best clothes'. We may do lots of practical activities.
- Children will need to bring their own water bottles and snacks.
- If your child has a school meal it will be provided in the first instance. Numbers will need to be reviewed as the days go on.
- Children on packed lunches will need to provide their own lunches.
- Children coming into school need to bring their HOME LEARNING PACKS with them.

At things stand at the moment, we are planning to open as usual on our own school site, with our own children and staff. If this proves not to be viable as a result of numbers and staff absences, there is the possibility that our children and staff will either have to move to another school site, or that another school will move to our site, in order to share resources. If this were to happen, I would let you know as soon as I was informed, as I know that many of you are worried about this happening.

For parents of our Y6 children, we too are 'gutted' by the turn of events and the impact that this may have on your children's final year at St. Mary's. They have already had a challenging and difficult year and it would be a real pity if the Coronavirus pandemic prevented them from celebrating their achievements over the last 7 years.

We know that many of them are so, so disappointed in the cancellation of the SATs as they were more than ready and had worked so hard. We do firmly believe that each, and every one of them, would have 'aced' the tests. I do want to stress that their hard work has not been in vain as it will be reflected in the teacher assessment judgements that go up to high school with them.

I am proud of every single child in the Y6 cohort. Every single one of them has surpassed the targets set for them – and in this – they are true stars. I could not have asked anymore of them. They are also a kind and caring cohort who have been wonderful ambassadors for our school and great role models to the younger members of the school community.

We are really hoping that we will return to school in time for them to celebrate their leaving as a class and we have all of our fingers and toes crossed that PGL can go ahead. (If it is cancelled – money paid will be refunded back to you.)

However, this is a time of great uncertainty and I cannot make any promises. What I can promise though is that you have my word that we will not let our Y6 children leave without a traditional St. Mary's send off and if school is unable to reopen before the end of the summer term, we will invite all of our Y6s (Y7s) back to St. Mary's for an evening of celebration and fun. Yes it will be different – but it will be special – and totally unique for each and every one of them.

I do appreciate that people feel frustrated by the lack of information. I feel it too, but can I reassure you all that I will share any new information with you as soon as I am made aware of it. All information will be shared on the school website and text messages will be used to prompt you to look.

We are in unprecedented times and as such we do need to pull together and to take care of each other and if we, as a school, can do anything to help you and your family, please let us know.

In the meantime, if you do anything fun over the closure period or if you would like to share your child's work with us, please email work and photographs into school at st.maryrcbp@sthelens.org.uk and we will create newsletters to share all of your news with each other.

I really do hope that school is able to reopen again before the end of Summer and that we will all be able to finish the school year on a positive note. Take care everyone and I hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes.

Andrea Hymers

Mrs Andrea Hymers
Headteacher

