



# St. Mary's News

## 4th September 2020



A Great Big  
WELCOME Back  
Everyone

**WELCOME BACK  
TO SCHOOL**

A great big WELCOME back everyone. We can't tell you how pleased we were to see all of our wonderful children back together again on Wednesday and to hear their laughter and chatter throughout our school buildings. The children appeared really happy to be back and were clearly thrilled to see each other (and their teachers) again. The children have settled back in really well and have spent lots of time this week exploring their emotions through a variety of 'Sunshine After The Rain' activities – which they appeared to really enjoy.



The teachers are enjoying spending time getting to know their new classes and are starting to identify any gaps in learning that are there as a result of the last few months. Interventions and catch up sessions will start to be delivered once staff have a fuller/clearer picture of the children's needs and misconceptions.



In the meantime, the children will be spending time focusing **ABC** upon the basic skills of phonics, reading, writing and maths in the mornings and the afternoons will be spent exploring a mixture of PSHE themes, topic work and P.E. activities.

The children are becoming very good at washing their hands and they are showing us that they understand the importance of staying within their bubble to remain safe.



Drop off and collections are working really well, so thank you for keeping to the allocated gates and collection times. If a grandparent or family member is collecting in place of a parent, can we please ask that you make them aware of the designated time and collection



gate, as these have been allocated in such a way as to ensure that numbers accessing each gate at any one time are relatively equal and that people feel safe and are able to socially distance. Can we also remind you that only 1 adult is allowed on the school site at home time in order to pick up the children. This again is to ensure that numbers are low enough to ensure that everyone feels safe.

Please note if you arrive after the gates have been closed they will not be reopened for you to enter. You will have to wait until the gates reopen for the next group of children.

Can we also remind you that the children need to stay by your side whilst waiting to enter. They should not be running around and chasing each other, as social distancing rules need to be followed as closely as possible. Thank you.



# A Big St. Mary's WELCOME

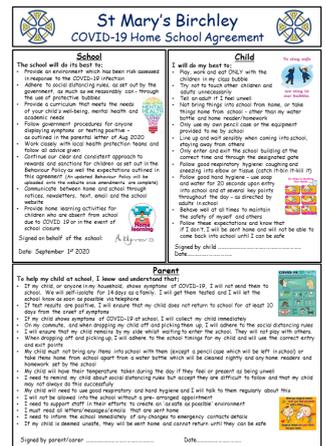


We would like to say a big WELCOME to all of our new Reception children who started school this week. They have settled in wonderfully and even stayed for lunch today! We are looking forward to seeing them all again next week when they will start 'big' school full time and begin their learning journeys at St. Mary's.

We welcome them and their families into our school and Parish family.

## Home/School Agreement

There is a new Home/School Agreement on the website (under Coronavirus Updates) that has been re written in the light of COVID 19. Please do take time to read the agreement and discuss it with your child. We have not sent home a paper copy in order to reduce transmission risks. If you would like a paper copy, just let the office know. Unless you contact school, we will assume that you are happy with the points noted in the agreement and that you will adhere to them.



## Key Stage 2 - Homework

In order to minimise homework/worksheets going to and from school, the staff in KS2 have changed the way in which homework will be sent home this term.

**Spellings:** A half termly list of spellings will be sent home (as well as posted on the class website page). Each week's spellings will be dated. The children will need to learn the correct week's spellings in preparation for a weekly class spelling test. Days of tests will be recorded in the children's diaries. (Year 3 will receive 1 week's spellings on Monday for that week only. They will then receive a half termly list.)

**Learning Pack:** The teachers will spend the next couple of weeks informally assessing the children in order to note the areas in which they need further support. An individual learning pack will then be created for the children to take home to work through, in order to help them to improve, deepen and further their skills and knowledge. Activities will focus upon reading comprehension skills, arithmetic/4 rules of number skills and times table activities.

The packs will be sent home week beginning 21st September and will need to be returned by Monday 2nd November. This will allow time for the pack to be left aside for a couple of days to reduce the risk of transmission before the children start to complete the activities. Once the packs have been returned to school, staff too will leave the packs for a couple of days before they start to mark them and give the children feedback.

**Home Readers:** Staff will start to send home Home Reading Books over the next week or two.

New books will be sent home every two weeks. They will be given out on a Monday and will need to be returned on the Thursday of the following week. The returned books will then be quarantined until the Monday to allow 72 hours before the books are re-issued.



Letters will be sent home next week to explain spelling, home readers and homework routines to our Year 1 and Year 2 parents, as each class has slightly different routines.

### Flu Vaccinations

Our Rec-Y6 children are due to have their flu spray on Friday October 9th. The spray will be administered by a team of school nurses. Information leaflets and consent forms will be sent out shortly and will need to be returned to school before the vaccination day in order for your child to receive the spray.



### School Money

We have had a couple of teething problems with our new online payment system at the start of the week, but we have now HOPEFULLY (fingers crossed) sorted out all issues.

The system is now fully up and running and parents should be able to pay for toast, milk, levy dinners and sporting clubs (when up and running). Parents can also use the system to book and pay for ABC Club.

If your child is not having toast or milk can you please let school know so that the payment stream can be removed from their account.

Children who have Fish and Chip Friday simply need to pay the amount of £19.60 to cover this half term and the system will automatically recognise that this is what the payment is for.

If you have more than 1 child in school, their accounts will be automatically linked, so parents are able to see all of their children's accounts at the same time.

Please do let us know if you are having problems and we will do our best to sort them ASAP.



### Home Reading Books

Can we please, please ask that all reading books that were sent home during school closure are returned to school by Wednesday at the latest. We are really short on books and cannot afford to replace all of the ones missing. We will be unable to start our home reading programme until we have more books back in stock.

### Own Clothes for Birthdays



Don't forget that the children can come to school in their own clothes on their birthday in order to mark their special day. If their birthday is on the weekend, they can come to school in their own clothes on a Monday. If their birthday is during a holiday period, the children can wear their own clothes on the first day back after the holiday period.

### Advanced Notice—October half term Holiday Club

Our Sporting Partner Sports4Kids will run a holiday club over the October half term for parents needing child care. The club will run from 8am—6pm every day and will be held here, at St. Mary's. As the club is being held at St. Mary's, the cost for our children is only £12.50 per day—which is a great price for a full day of fun activities. Further information to follow.