



St. Mary's News 8th January 2021



Happy New Year & Welcome Back

Well it wasn't the start to the New Year that any of us expected or wanted! We hope that you all managed to celebrate Christmas in your own special way and that you were all able to stay safe and well.

We know that a couple of our children, and members of their families, tested positive over the holiday period and we wish them a speedy recovery and send them our love.



Home/School Learning

We have welcomed back over 50% of our children, who are attending school as either children of critical workers or as children who are classed as vulnerable. This is a significant number of children on the school site, and many more than in the previous lockdown last March. In order to ensure that our children and staff are able to maintain social distance and in order to reduce the overall number of social contacts in our school community, all bubbles - with the exception of Y6, are now closed. If any further parents request places, the Governing Body will need to review all requests made (both from parents of children already in school and those from parents requiring places as from Monday) and will re-allocate places using the priority system outlined below:

- Vulnerable children
- NHS staff
- Children with two critical worker parents (or one if from a single parent household)
- School staff
- Health Key Workers not employed by the NHS
- Other critical workers



Staff are working hard to ensure that the children learning from home have the opportunity to complete the same tasks as those children in school. The introduction of our live teaching sessions next week will enable the children at home to participate in whole class lessons/activities under the direction of their teacher and to maintain contact with their class teachers and with their peers.

We have had a few issues with our home learning platform this week, but we now hope that all of these have been sorted and that things will go more smoothly next week. Most of the issues have centred around you being unable to see certain attachments when multiple documents have been uploaded as one task. In order to overcome this, staff have to upload each document separately e.g. there may be 3 documents uploaded for a Science lesson - please don't panic and think that your child has been given 3 pieces of work to complete - it may just be that there is a PowerPoint needed to introduce the work; a word bank to support learning and then the activity sheet to complete.

All Home Learning Packs should have been collected from the school office today. The work inside these packs should provide your child with enough work to complete up until the February half-term. However, if your child completes all of the tasks and you require further work, just let school know.

It is a very different way of teaching and learning for everyone and we are all learning as we go along. If you do have any concerns or questions, please email the school office who will pass your message on to staff. Please note that emails/phone calls will not be returned immediately as staff are teaching throughout the school day. Staff who work part time or across different classes will also only respond on the days that they are in work or on days that they teach your child's class.

We do hope that the lockdown is able to end as planned after February half-term and we look forward to seeing all of our children once again. Until then, take care everyone.