

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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***'Learning for life with God as our guide'***

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

**Farewells**

We say a fond farewell to our lovely Class 6 children this week and wish them every continued success. The children and families gathered for a Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church on Tuesday during which the children shared their thoughts, memories and achievements from their time at primary school. Each member of the class was gifted a bible. They have also produced a yearbook with memories about all members of the class – a lovely keepsake. The annual presentation of the Year 6 cups was also undertaken – see separate attachment for information about who received these this year.

As you will also know from previous letters we also say goodbye to Mrs Muller who is leaving St Mary's CEP this term – I know you will all join with me in wishing her well.

**And Hello!**

We welcome new staff to the team who will start with us in September. As you will recall Mr Matthew Lamprell takes up the role of Head of School. We also welcome our new Teaching Assistants – Maya Patel, Bridie Richardson and Suzanna Bawtree, who will be working in Classes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

We also, of course, welcome a whole class full of new Reception children as well as children who will be joining other classes across the school.

**Thank You**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend huge thanks to all members of our school community – children, families, staff and governors – who have all worked together so successfully during this last year. Thank you for bearing with us and complying with the Covid-safe measures we have had in place and for your understanding. The staff have all been brilliant – working tirelessly always with the best interests of the children at heart.

**Looking Forward**

Children in Classes 1-6 return to school on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** for the beginning of Term 1. Reception Class children will attend also for stay and play sessions – parents have already received information regarding the timings of their sessions.

At the time of writing this letter there is no requirement for us to have in place social distancing arrangements or to keep the classes – bubbles – of children and/or families separate.



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### **Drop-off arrangements will be as follows:-**

Classes R, 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) – to come to the Laureston Place gate between 8:40am and 8:55am. We will continue to use both gates – Classes R and 1 to use the gate to the left as you are facing school, Class 2 to use the gate to the right. Mr Lamprell or Miss Yarnley will greet the children at the gate.

Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Key Stage 2) – to come to the Maison Dieu Gate between 8:40am and 8:55am. Mr Lamprell or Miss Yarnley will greet the children at the gate. The staff will be on the playground to meet and gather the children so your child can walk up the slope on their own.

If you need to drop children to both gates please go around the outside of the school site using Ashen Tree Lane and Laureston Place – this has worked well this year.

Please continue to liaise with the school office via telephone and email while we keep these arrangements under review.

### **Collection Arrangements:-**

#### Key Stage 1

Class R will be dismissed from the same Laureston Place gate at 3:00pm, and Classes 1 and 2 from the Laureston Place gates at 3:05pm. The class teachers will dismiss the children to the parent / carers.

If you have a child in Class R and 1 or 2, please collect your Class R child and then step aside and wait until the other one(s) come out.

#### Key Stage 2

The Maison Dieu gate will be opened at 3:05pm for parent/carers to come on site to wait on the playground – there will be designated areas for each class of parents. Mr Lamprell and Miss Yarnley will be available to support arrangements at this time.

Classes 3-6 will be brought to the playground at 3:10pm and the children will be sent to the parent/carers by the staff. Please bear with us while children are matched to grown-ups, especially at the start of term while staff are still getting to know which grown-ups belong with which children.

If you need to collect children from both gates please start with the youngest at Laureston Place.

These drop-off and collection arrangements are a mixture of what we did pre-covid and what we have been doing during covid. As with all things, we will review how these work in reality and will tweak if we need to. Do please let us know if the arrangements do not work well for you and we will see what we can do to fix the problem.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will start again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. All children are welcome to attend – please contact the school office to place a booking. The daily charge is £2.20, which includes breakfast and childcare from 8:00am.

### **Covid Arrangements**

Within the new school guidance from the Government there will no longer a requirement to keep children separated into bubbles at school nor for whole groups of children to isolate if one tests positive for covid.



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If your child has symptoms of covid they must not attend school and should have a PCR test. If anyone in your household has symptoms and/or tests positive your child must not attend school. The PHE stay at home guidance is to be followed and you should keep school informed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We no longer need to be notified outside of office hours of positive cases.

We will continue to keep all rooms well ventilated with windows open and will continue with good hand and nose hygiene. Hand sanitising and hand washing will continue to be a normal part of daily life at school which will continue to reduce the spread of all infections.

### **School Meals**

All children in Classes R, 1 and 2 will continue to be entitled to a free cooked school lunch every day and these are highly recommended.

Children in our current Class 2 who have benefited from the free cooked lunch will, from September when they join Class 3, pay for their cooked school lunches with children in Classes 4, 5 and 6 unless they are entitled to means tested Free School Meals. Miss Yarnley can help with applying for Free School Meals – do please contact her.

The cost of a school dinner in September remains the same as this year at £2.30. **Please note** that payment online direct to Principals Catering is the only method for payment. To pay online use the following link [https://meals.principals-catering.com/accounts/sign\\_in](https://meals.principals-catering.com/accounts/sign_in). Cash/cheques will not be accepted and all meals must be paid for in advance.

### **PE Kits**

From the beginning of the new term in September children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school as they used to before Covid. This should be in a drawstring bag which they will keep on their peg. No carrier bags please. Once the term begins teachers will let you know which days each class has PE. There will be further information about PE kits for the Reception Class in September; in the meantime they should have plimsolls in a draw-string bag from 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Pierced Ears**

Children cannot wear earrings during PE. If you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced please do so at the beginning of the school summer holiday so they have time to heal in order for them to take their earrings out for PE lessons at school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Water Bottles**

The water fountains will continue to be out of use so please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime.

### **Dates**

Dates for next year are being finalised and will be shared with you in September. A couple which you may wish to note are included here.



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To confirm information already sent out, all five training (INSET) days for the year will be from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October which is the week before half term – this may be of interest if you are looking to book a holiday.

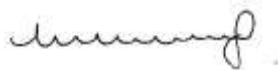
In addition we have booked tickets for the Marlowe Theatre Pantomime for all children in Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 to attend during the last week of term before we break up for Christmas. Obviously this trip will be subject to whatever Covid arrangements we are living at the time.

**And finally....**

If school guidance regarding Covid changes during August and we have to go back to the staggered and socially distanced drop-off and collection arrangements, I will write to you on 31<sup>st</sup> August to advise you.

I wish you all a good summer wherever you are and whatever you are doing, and look forward to seeing you at school in the autumn.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Helen Comfort**  
**Executive Headteacher**