

Dover St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Learning for life with God as our guide

Friday, 3rd September 2021



A Message from Ms Comfort

Happy New School Year!

I wish you all well as this new school year begins.

It has been so good to have all of the children back at school and to catch up with the parent/carers too. The children – and staff – are very much enjoying being able to have a more relaxed approach to arrangements. Classes are mixing at play and lunchtime and we are gathering together in the hall from next week for Collective Worship again.

That being said, we do still have in place important measures to protect the school community and to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

Good hand and respiratory (nose) hygiene continue to be very important, as does ventilation. Children will be required to wash and sanitise hands on arrival and throughout the day; tissues are widely available also! All classrooms and other spaces in school will continue to have open windows to ensure good air circulation. Staff continue to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Tests – these tests are also widely available for families from the Gov.uk website for your use if you wish, or by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Coronavirus

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 – a new continuous cough, a change in taste/smell or a temperature - they must **not** attend school and a PCR test should be taken; this is the same as before.

On 16 August 2021 changes came into effect with regards isolation following contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. This means that a confirmed case in the class will not automatically lead to the class being closed (as before). If you have a confirmed case in your family, other family members do not need to isolate **IF** they are under the age of 18 years 6 months or double vaccinated – please note this important change. It is recommended that contacts of the confirmed case do undertake a PCR test.

As always, please keep the school office well-informed about reasons for absence and whether you have confirmed COVID-19 in your household.

If the infection rate in school, or the wider community, becomes of concern we may have to revert to some of our previous control measures such as reinstating bubbles, closing bubbles with confirmed cases, re-introducing staggered drop-off and collection times and using face coverings again – I will let you know if these measures are needed.

Welcome

We have been getting to know our new Reception Class children this week and their families, as well as a few children who have joined us in other classes. We also welcome Mr Matthew Lamprell as Head of School – most of you will have met him by now at the school gate. In addition we welcome Miss Bridie Richardson and Miss Suzannah Bawtree to the staff team who are working as Teaching Assistants.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter so that you are up to speed with information – do please also check the letter which came out earlier this week with further information including key dates for the year – link below:

<https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=978&type=pdf>

Ms Helen Comfort – Executive Headteacher

Collective Worship at St Mary's

We had our last video-link Collective Worship this week before gathering in the hall again from Monday.

Mr Lamprell revisited our school Christian Values of Peace, Friendship, Perseverance, Trust and Respect as well as our rules – Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Ready to Learn. I am pleased to say that I have seen many examples this week of children living by our values and following our rules.

On Friday we celebrated being back together and explored happiness, including ways in which we all spread the St Mary's happiness! The children heard the story in Matthew 22 v 1-10. This parable teaches us that the Kingdom of God is **open to everyone**, not selected groups, that you should be **fair** and **spread joy and happiness to others**.

Thought for the Week



Go with the FLO....

Welcome back!



I hope you all had a rest, recharge, and made lots of happy memories over the summer break.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our St Mary's pupils back - looking lovely and smiley at the school gates.

I hope this school year brings a new sense of excitement and is filled with wonderful achievements.

If there is anything at all you would like to discuss, at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss Claire Yarnley

ALL MEALS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Lunch Menu - Week 1
Week beginning Mon 6th Sept

£2.33 per day

Follow the link below to view the menu:

<https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=854&type=pdf>

To pay for your meals online, please go to:

www.principals-catering.com

As always, please don't hesitate to make contact via email or telephone with any queries, comments or concerns you may have.

Helen Comfort - Executive Headteacher
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Follow this link to our website

<https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/>