



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Week Ending 28th August 2020

WELCOME BACK

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all safe and well and have had a great Summer with your families. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child/ren back into school next week on **Wednesday 2nd September**. We have missed you greatly!

Please ensure you have read and understood the following document on our school website; **A guide for ALL parents on children returning to school in September 2020**, this has been available since July. However, over the Summer holiday, the government published updated guidance for schools and so we have some additional information below for you. Please read the guidance and if you have any further questions, please email or telephone the school office on Tuesday 1st September.

Look forward to seeing you very soon!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

ATTENDANCE



It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. School attendance is mandatory from September, therefore the usual school rules will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly (daily)
- School will be recording attendance and following up any absences
- Schools now have the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

I understand many of you will be concerned about sending your child/ren to school. We will be contacting some families on Tuesday 1st September about your child/ren's return to school. If you are concerned about your child's return to school and wish to speak to a member of staff about this then please email the school office on:

enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk and a member of staff will be in touch with you. We have made many changes to best manage the risks and this newsletter indicates more of the changes that have been made to keep your child/ren safe.



CONTACT DETAILS

Please inform the school office immediately via email (enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk) if your contact details have changed. This is imperative for us to ensure we can adhere to Test and Trace procedures.

HANDWASHING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please remind your child/ren of the importance of thorough handwashing (for 20 seconds) and remind them that they should avoid holding hands and having close contact with other children where possible. Children will be washing their hands immediately after entering the school and they will be leaving school with sanitised hands. Children will not be sat socially distanced from other children in their class bubbles as we have made arrangements to ensure that children do not sit next to or spend time with children from other bubbles during the school day. There will be occasions whereby bubbles may be using a shared large area (i.e. playground and hall), adults will supervise to ensure that children stay in their allocated area and we have ensured that there is enough space to make this comfortably possible. Being mindful of ourselves and contact with others is important to keep everyone safe. We are happy for you to supply your child with hand sanitiser - however, there is plenty available in school too!

HOME LEARNING PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SELF-ISOLATING

All children are expected to return to school next week (we can't wait to see them! 😊) However, some children may not be able to attend (i.e. they may be isolating or unwell.) In cases whereby children are at home and well enough to, they are expected to undertake home learning on BGfL. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO HAVING TO ISOLATE AT HOME. There will be a booklet available soon on our school website detailing the expectations and procedures for children learning from home.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

There is an allocated time for children in year groups to be dropped off and collected (stated in the Return to School September 2020 booklet available on our school website). Please adhere to your child's allocated drop off and collection times. Please ensure that ONLY 1 ADULT should be present on the school grounds to drop children off or collect

them. This is to support social distancing. We welcome parents to wear face masks on school grounds and ask that you keep a safe distance of 1 metre or more from others. Adults **MUST NOT** congregate on the school playground or in communal areas. Please be respectful of others around you to keep everyone safe.



DAYS YOUR CHILD WILL BE DOING P.E.

In next week's newsletter, we will inform you of the days your child will be doing P.E. in school. Until further notice we request that on the day/s your child is doing P.E., they come into school dressed in black or grey trousers/jogging bottoms and with trainers on to take part in their P.E. lessons. Children must not bring a separate P.E. kit into school. We expect children to be dressed in **FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM ON OTHER DAYS** and we expect normal black school shoes to be worn on all other days.



FACE COVERINGS

Government guidance stipulates that face coverings **DO NOT NEED TO BE WORN BY CHILDREN** under the age of 11. We understand that some children come to school by public transport and so we support children wearing face coverings on their way to school and on their departure from school. Any child choosing to wear a face mask to school should keep this in a small plastic bag until the end of the day or if it is a disposable face mask, they should place it in a small plastic bag before disposing of it in a school bin. (You are responsible for ensuring your child has the required plastic bags to either store or dispose of their face coverings, this is in line with government guidance and must not be ignored.)

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Communication with parents is important to us and we value your feedback. We need to work together more than ever to ensure we are supporting your child in the best way we can. We have always used our school planners to communicate through but unfortunately, until further notice, we will no longer be using the school planners. Instead, we would like you to email the school office on: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk. Please state in the email subject who your message is for the attention of, for example; FAO: Mrs. xxxx regarding my child xxxx. The office will forward this email on to the member of staff. It is our aim to respond to emails by the next day. If your matter is urgent, you should contact the school office on: 0121 357 9892 and a member of staff will call you back. Please do not send in notes or letters via your children.

MORNING SNACKS

Until further notice, we can no longer provide toast and juice at break times for children to purchase. Please supply your child with a healthy snack instead (pieces of fruit are ideal!) We promote healthy eating so sugary snacks, crisps, chocolate and fizzy pop is prohibited.

School dinners will resume as normal. However, we will not be offering the salad bar service. Instead, we will provide other fruit/vegetables in the main meal. School lunchboxes should be labelled and must not contain nuts.



TRANSPORT

Where possible, we encourage all of our families to walk or cycle to school. If you do use public transport to get to school, please ensure you adhere to government guidance and wear a face mask at all times.

If your child needs to share a car to school with someone outside of their support bubble or household, they should:

- Share with the same people each time
- Open the windows for ventilation



If your child chooses to wear a face covering on their journey to school, please ensure they understand how to remove it and how to keep it or dispose of it safely. Staff at the school entrance area points will ask your child to remove the face covering before entering the school building.

BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS

Children modelling high standards of behaviour and completing outstanding pieces of work and homework will be rewarded. We will continue to use our POP bands (Praise of pupil awards) in classrooms and we will continue to post praise postcards home to children who are having to self-isolate.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING

As stated in the Return to school September booklet for parents, staff will be completing a range of wellbeing activities with your child the first week back before delivering any formal learning activities. This is to ensure that we all understand the new changes and that your child is settled into the new school routine before we deliver more structured learning.

We will be updating you on our progress towards creating a 'school wellbeing garden' in our next newsletter.

You will also get an update soon on the new school WELLBEING ROOM!

Useful websites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-information-for-children/>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/> (Contains useful links and resources for families coping with self-isolation)

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/>

HOMEWORK

All homework will be set on your child's BGfL account, your child/ren's class teacher will explain the expectations on this in school to your child/ren and to you at the parent meetings taking place the week beginning Monday 7th September (please see online Guide for September re-opening booklet for more information on these meetings).

Over the Summer, leaders in school have continued to monitor the amount of reading children have undertaken on Bug Club. Many children have continued to read at home on Bug Club and many have made progress in reading levels over the Summer holiday - this is excellent! We expect your child to access Bug Club daily to read their designated books.

Please ensure you and your child have the log in codes and passwords to access their BGfL and Bug Club accounts.

TEST AND TRACE PROCEDURES

Please see the following booklet on our website for more information; 'A guide for ALL parents on children returning to school in September 2020'.

The NHS Test and Trace service will help to control the rate of reproduction, reduce the spread of the infection and save lives. By playing your part through the actions set out below, you will directly help to contain the virus by reducing its spread.

Playing your part:

- If you develop symptoms, you must continue to follow the rules to self-isolate with ALL members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus. **YOU MUST INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.**
- If you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly (PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ONCE YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULT). You must also notify your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help the NHS alert other people who may need to self-isolate.
- If you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so. **PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE.**
- If you are returning from travel abroad it is important to check whether you need to self-isolate. **REMEMBER, YOU MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL FOR ANY ABSENCES.**

I understand that this is a lot of information to absorb, updates are being published regularly so we need to expect that there will be more changes ahead of us. By working together and supporting one another we can ensure that we overcome any challenges put in front of us.

Have a great bank holiday weekend and stay safe!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team



• STAY SAFE • BE KIND •