

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



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Dear Parents,

I wanted to start this week's letter by thanking you all for your efforts over the past eight weeks. Children, parents and teachers have all worked incredibly hard and juggled so much to make remote and on-site learning a success. I feel very privileged to be part of such a wonderful community and to have witnessed how we have come together to support our children.

Our Fairtrade Fortnight has been a tremendous success. Some wonderful work has been produced including eye-catching posters, delicious recipes and some thoughtful persuasive letters. It has been wonderful for the children to learn about how the decisions they make in day to day life can have an impact on our global community. A huge well done to everyone involved and particularly to Mrs Black, who led this initiative and has made a wonderful display celebrating the children's work for them to enjoy on their return.

Despite the great work that has been done online, I am very excited that we will be welcoming all the children back to school on Monday. Very little has changed from the autumn term. All the additional measures remain in place including the children being in class or year group bubbles and the school operating a staggered timetable. Drop off and pick up will be as follows:

8.40-8.50 and 3.10-3.20 – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

8.50-9.00 and 3.20-3.30 – Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

The overlap will allow siblings to be dropped off and picked up at the same time. When picking up and dropping off, please be prompt and, where possible, come without additional adults or children. Please do follow our one-way system and wear a mask when you are on our school site.

Detailed plans are in place to support the pupils as they return to school. This includes re-establishing clear expectations, revising our timetables to help promote well-being and build stamina and including lessons that nurture our pupils and allow them opportunities to express themselves socially and emotionally.

We are aware that the children have missed a significant amount of time in school, but I wouldn't want any child, parent or member of staff to feel overwhelmed by this. Together, I know we will be able to ensure our children make great progress and it is vital that we start from a place where pupils feel safe, confident and valued. It is also important that both pupils and parents have time without the pressure of school work and so I decided we will not set homework before Easter. Reading books will be sent home as usual but I hope that this will give you some much deserved time for rest and relaxation after your immense efforts.

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Hughes
Headteacher