



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Spring 2 | 14th January 2022

It has been fantastic to welcome back almost all of our children and staff to school this week. We have been monitoring attendance closely and it is clear that COVID and other illnesses have been very disruptive to our children's education. In our last "normal" year of school the average attendance for the autumn term was 97%, sadly this year it was 93%. Thank you to all of you who are supporting your child's attendance. However, this is extremely worrying as over the course of the year it means a child will miss almost three weeks of school. For the children with even poorer attendance this means they are missing weeks and weeks of education. Whilst most absences are understandable I would urge you to send your children into school whenever possible and avoid taking holidays during term time or keeping them at home with minor ailments. This is particularly important given the impact that time away from school can have on their mental health and well-being.

Fortunately, the changes in government guidance mean that some of the children and staff who have to isolate because of COVID may be able to return to school without having to isolate for ten full days. From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating will be able to reduce their isolation period after five full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of self-isolation and the second test must be taken the following day. If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed ten full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

To help stop the spread within our school community we will ask all staff, volunteers and pupils to do daily lateral flow tests if they have been a close contact. We would like you to do these daily for a week. Thank you in advance for your continued support and vigilance. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 18th January – School Photographs

Friday 21st January – Mufti (Non-uniform) day for More House

Wednesday 26th January - Reception and Year 6 - National Child Measurement

Monday 31st January – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Tuesday 1st February – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Thursday 3rd February – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Monday 7th February – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 8th February – Parents' Evening

Monday 14th – Friday 18th February – Half Term

Monday 21st February – INSET – School Closed

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Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th February – Year 5 Sayers Croft
Week Commencing Monday 28th February – Online Safety Week
Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday – Distribution of the Ashes – Years 3-6
Thursday 17th March – Lent Reconciliation Services in school
Thursday 24th March - Cyber Use and Cyber Crime Talk for Parents 5-6.30pm
Thursday 31st March – Way of the Cross led by Year 6
Friday 1st April – School Closes for Easter Holidays at 1pm – Apologies for the error in last week’s newsletter
Monday 3rd – Monday 18th April - Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19th April – Start of Summer Term

Start of the Year Mass

Thank you to our Year 6 children who led our start of the year Mass this morning. It was particularly special as it was the first time our Reception children had come to Mass and we were all together as a school community. I was incredibly proud of their beautiful behaviour and how well supported they were by our Year 5 class. A special thanks to Mrs O’Gorman, Mrs Black and of course Father Adrian for their help preparing the Mass for our school.

Mass is always a very special time for us to come together as a community and worship. However, we also make time for this throughout the week at school and this year the PTA has helped fund resources from Ten Ten. More information for parents can be found at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/> where you will see that Ten Ten are running a year of pilgrimage. This will be a great opportunity for all our children to think about and explore their own spiritual journey and as we are lucky to have children from many other faiths within our school we look forward to finding out about and sharing the special journeys that are important to our pupils.

Termly Information Letters

Our termly information letters will be available in your child’s Google classroom by Monday. They give an overview of what their year group will be learning during the spring term.

Kickstart

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school is participating in the Kickstart Scheme which provides funding to employers to create jobs for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit. A Teaching Assistant role is currently being advertised at St Mary Magdalen's Primary School. Click the link below if you would like more information or contact your work coach at the job centre. <https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk/details/7092996>

Help and Support

Please see the flyer with this newsletter for more information about help and support with mental health and well-being. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class – Olive Carter-Smith

Year 1 – Circus Class – Benecio Franco Dorneles

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Freddie Ennis

Year 3D – Leap Class – Finlay Black

Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Sienna Campbell

Year 4 – Journey Class – Charlotte Doherty

Year 5 – Aurora Class – The Whole Class

Year 6 – Parade Class – Caleb Mcrae

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Pearse Freeman and Olly Brooker
for excellent work about Neil Armstrong

Elias Carter, Eva Hughes, Zoe Mangion and
Angelica Perry Pecikoza for wonderful writing
inspired by Beowulf

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children,

Catherine Hughes
Headteacher