

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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16th July 2020

RE: Weekly Update for all parents

Dear Parents

This is the last update of this very strange academic year. I want to thank you all for your reliance and support – special thoughts to those of you whose children have not been in since March. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back – and only them – on Friday 4th September. Goodbye videos will be coming out to you all via Parent Hub soon. We are looking forward to seeing all of the children in school from Monday 7th. The Government has asked that we encourage you not to use public transport to get to and from school.

Please remember it's school uniform from September so no earrings or jewellery – watches are allowed.

In the previous update I told you how children will be in year group bubbles and how these will be staggered with different times for starting and ending the day. I had hoped to get this information out to you yesterday but this was not to be! Instead I've included the times here:

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Start times

8.25 Year 1 (Back double gates)
8.25 Year 2 (Front double gates)
8.35 Year 3 (Back double gates)
8.35 Year 4 (Front double gates)
8.45 Nursery (Back double gates)
8.45 Year 5 (Front double gates)
8.55 Reception (Back double gates)
8.55 Year 6 (Front classroom doors)

Pick up times

2.35 Year 1 (Back double gates)
2:35 Year 2 (Front double gates)
2.45 Year 3 (Back double gates)
2.45 Year 4 (Front double gates)
11:45 Nursery (Back double gates)
2.55 Year 5 (Front double gates)
3.05 Reception (Back double gates)
3.05 Year 6 (Front classroom doors)

Welcome back videos will come out to you at the start of the new term. You'll see that there's a 10 minute gap between starting groups and that there's a maximum of 120 children coming in and leaving at any one time.

In order to limit crowding in the car park and maintain a COVID 19 aware environment at the start and end of each day we will be asking you not to come onto the school site at all – expect to drop off and pick up. We will ask that you arrive just in time for pick up – entering via the small gate by the Church Hall and leaving via the South Street gate. Staff will be on the entrance gate and will only be letting in the parents of the 120 children who are coming and going at each time slot. So please try not to overcrowd the area outside of school too, you can help by arriving on time and then leaving or moving away from the area outside of school.

We understand that staggered start and finish times are inconvenient for parents with children in more than one year group – we thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

We will continue to monitor children's temperatures when they arrive and should your child have a high temperature you will need to take them from school straightaway.

Year 6 children can go back to walking to and from school on their own. Parents of Y6 children please check their temperatures at home every morning if they are going to come in on their own. We'll check them too on

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arrival. For the time being we will continue to ask you not to come into the school so please continue to email any questions you have. If you wish to speak to a teacher please email so that they can call you back.

Home learning will still be uploaded each week to www.bit.ly/SMIHLarchive so that you can see what the children will be doing and have down each week. As I said in the previous update, our Recovery Curriculum will have a sharper focus and will include Wellbeing too.

Since June and the wider re-opening we have found that technology (laptops, tablets and interactive boards) has been really helpful in class as children are not working together and sit in rows rather than groups. We are really grateful to the PTA who have donated a new class set of Macbook Airls. This means that we now have 60 Macbooks Airls, 90 iPads and 35 Windows 10 tablets across the school. We plan to allocate these to classes but for the plan to work from September we would like years 5 and 6 to bring their own devices (if they have one) in with them each day. It doesn't need any software on it but will need to have good battery life and be able to connect to the internet.

Our thanks go to the outgoing PTA Chairs Carol and Margaret, thank you for all you've done over the last couple of years as chairs. So many children have benefitted and will continue to benefit from your hard work and enthusiasm.

Thank you too to Nigel Bale who is standing down as PTA Treasurer after many, many years. This is a particular post which needs a particular skill set and we have all benefitted from Nigel's experience in the role over the years. Thank you.

Lastly we say goodbye (as a parent to Catalina). Catalina has had a couple of stints as PTA Chair and for many years has organised the Leavers' Books and their Hoodies. Thank you! We know you haven't escaped fully as you are carrying on as a Foundation Governor.

On your behalf I'd like to thank all of the staff who have done a wonderful job in difficult times. Thanks to Mr Cobbold and Mrs Formby who have been a real support this year and to our wonderful admin staff too – Mrs Gardner, Mrs Whyms, Mr Pipola and Mr Grey.

We wish all of you a very restful summer holiday. To our Year 6 children and to you (if you are leaving us as parents) we say God Speed!

Thank you for your continued support. See you all in September!

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St Mary! Pray for Us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Farley Marsh". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

F Marsh

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