

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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RE: Weekly Update for all parents

Dear Parents

Wow! We've made it to half term and it's come round so quickly too. Thank you for all of your support which has enabled us to stay safe and stay open. We've not had any cases of COVID19 in school – no children or adults have tested positive and we've not had to send any bubbles homes. It's testament to us working together and a great achievement – thank you.

Thank you to our wonderful teachers and teaching assistants here who have worked so hard to keep all of the children safe – particularly at lunch times. Thanks too to Mrs Gardner and Mrs Whyms in the office who have been superstars! Let's all make sure we take time to rest and take stock over half term.

On Wednesday of this week the DfE updated its guidance for schools to make sure that St Mary's remains COVID19 secure and safe for the children and staff we will continue to follow the essential aspects of the guidance:

Essential measures include:

- *a requirement that people who are ill stay at home*
- *robust hand and respiratory hygiene*
- *enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements*
- *active engagement with NHS Test and Trace*

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

- *formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- *grouping children together*
- *avoiding contact between groups*
- *arranging classrooms with forward facing desks*
- *staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible*

You can help by wearing a mask at pick up and drop off, keeping 2metres away from each other and staggering your arrival times.

After half term we switch to winter uniform and the guidance recommends advising parents that children may need to wear additional layers (vests, t-shirts and the school fleece) to combat the requirement that we keep the windows open. So please consider buying vests and any additional layers your children may need. We are aiming to not go below 18C in any of the classrooms but the windows must remain open to make sure that there's increased ventilation.

Thank you for your continued support, enjoy the half term break and stay safe!

St Mary! Pray for Us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Marsh', written in a cursive style.

F Marsh

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