

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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Mary, The Mother of God 1st January 2021

RE: New Year Update for everyone 1st January 2021

Dear Parents

Happy New Year everyone! Today we celebrate Mary as Mother of God or the Theotokos – the God-bearer and we ask for her prayers for this new year:

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, **Mother of God**, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death.

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

We are very sad that we will not be welcoming everybody back on Monday. We all did so well keeping each other safe which enabled us to stay open for the vast majority of the Autumn term that's it's a real blow to not start off 2021 with all of the children in. The majority of children will be safely at home and they should follow the Learning at Home resources from the page on our website. From Tuesday 5th these resources will be added to so that there are First, Now (the Oak links which will be added on from Tuesday onwards) and Then (Kahoot) quiz.

Each day's learning in school is reflected in the Learning at Home activities and everyone (in school and at home) should do these and the Kahoot quiz on Fridays. These are the "**First do this**" and "**Then do this**" activities.

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

So, if children are in school they should all (everyday) undertake the “First do this” activities for each day and the “Then do this” Kahoot quiz on Fridays. Children (in year groups or bubbles) at home will have an additional middle set of activities “**Now do this**” (from Tues 5th January) which link to Oak National Academy lessons. We use the Oak resources to ensure learning opportunities are still available in the event of St Mary’s staff becoming unwell.

All children should continue to read, learn their spellings, practice their Maths Passports and timestables every day.

The resources can also be accessed by going directly to: www.bit.ly/SMIHLarchive.

Half of the learning for each history (first half of terms) or geography (second half of terms) topic (we don’t teach them at the same time) is contained in the Knowledge Organisers and you can find these on in the Google Drive folders for Y3,4,5 and 6, along with the Knowledge Organisers and the Unit books and briefing videos. Please don’t race ahead! Children should learn all of the information on the Knowledge Organisers using the method explained here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9u3KxGCio8>. They can also carry out research on the internet and create fact files, posters and information booklets using the facts they have learnt.

Teachers will start calling children who are at home from Monday, around 6 children a day during the school day, most probably as before in register order. Please make sure you answer the phone as the number calling you will be hidden. Teachers will organise the order of the calls within their year groups releasing each other so that each teacher can speak to their own children.

If your child is at home and you would like the FSM vouchers please contact the office on Monday so that we can arrange for the vouchers through the council.

If you would like to borrow a laptop or iPad/tablet please let us know as we can loan these to you.

If you have no internet access again please let us know and we will look into getting some for you.

If you would like a book for your child to work in please let the office know and we will put it aside for you.

On Monday the vast majority of staff will be in school, there are some who are in isolation and they will not be but I am confident that children in their bubbles will be taught by adults they know. Vulnerable children and child of Critical Workers should come in on Monday at the now usual staggered times as long as they are well.

Please make sure your child is 100% well before sending them in and remember to book their lunches via

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Parent Pay (unless they are a junior child having packed lunch). Kick London will be in on Friday so PE kit please.

Here's the link to the Google Form for Vulnerable and Critical Worker school places if your child is eligible and you have not yet registered for a place: <https://forms.gle/yVZTqDafFUYNKuAf8>. **Please assume your child has a place unless we contact you to tell you otherwise.** Our expectation is that these children should be in school everyday unless they are unwell or have been told to isolate. If this is the case please use the form on our homepage to report the reason for the absence.

Thank you for your continued support – let's hope for a brighter 2021.

Pray for us Holy Mother of God; that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Marsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

F Marsh

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