



October Newsletter

St Mary's Primary School



Parental Feedback

Huge thank you to those who completed our survey. 83% of parents are satisfied that measures in school will keep children safe and that their children feel the same. 92% of parents are happy with the recent communication around cases linked to the school. We took on board some comments from parents and have changed the arrangements for pick up from the infant yard and now have a one way system which seems to be working well. Can I remind all parents that adults should be wearing face coverings in the yard and maintaining social distancing.



Halloween

We are not yet clear on what the guidelines will say with regards to Trick or Treating but we want our children to experience some fun even if they don't get round the doors. On Friday the 30th October children can wear their costumes to school for £1.00. They will have a small party in their classes with some Halloween games. Please note NO accessories should be brought in, costumes should not be too scary and masks should be left in bags during break and lunch.



Parent's Evening

We are unable to have parents in school at this time so an interim report will be issued this month. If you would like a conversation with the teacher after receiving the report, please call the school to arrange.



Awards

We will still have our awards ceremony this term but it will look a bit different! In a virtual assembly projected to each class children will find out who is receiving an award and why. Each class will have their own box of prize books to select from and I will personally go round classes delivering their prize. We have lots to celebrate and acknowledge and it is an important part of our school life. Pictures will be shared on social media and you will still be notified if your child is receiving an award.

Blended Learning

We are doing everything we can in school to minimise the impact of any positive cases. Social distancing is practiced in all but our younger classes. Classes are kept in their bubbles during break and lunch and strict hand hygiene routines are in place. Staff are wearing face coverings if working closely with children and when walking round the school.

In spite of this there will be times when children have to isolate either because of community transmission or because they are at risk if someone in school tests positive.

In these cases whether your child is only off for a couple of days when waiting on tests results or having to isolate for longer periods of time we are keen that their learning does not suffer.

All classes have a Blended Learning pack which can be found on our school website. It will be fully operational after the October holidays. Pupils and parents can access this whenever it is needed and it will be updated throughout the year. If anyone has difficulty accessing this material, please contact the school and a hard copy can be provided.

Please note if a child is ill we are not asking them to complete any work.

McMillan Coffee Morning

This will take place on October 23rd. As we cannot have parents in we will make this a child friendly juice and cake event. The classes will come to the hall in two groups, sit in their bubbles and will have a drink, snack and watch some cartoons. There is a minimum donation of £1.00 but children can donate more if they wish and all money will go to the Cancer charity.

Important Dates

First Communions for the children who missed it due to school closure will take place in November.

Saturday 14th November time tbc at Sacred Heart

And

Saturday 21st November @ 11 o'clock for St Josephs

Parents and siblings may attend and face coverings MUST be worn.

Information will be collected for Test and Protect purposes



Flu Immunisation takes place in school on Thursday 26th November.

Christmas

Our staff are busy trying to come up with new ways for us to recreate the school show experience and share our learning. If you have any useful contacts (film makers) or any good

ideas please let us know.

We will still raffle our wonderful hampers— information will come out in November with more details.

Christmas Card designs

created by your children are being sent today to be made up. Please buy as many as you can as we hope to raise money for our Christmas Parties.



Silent Disco

This event was a huge success and we had a wonderful Feast Day. We did run at a small loss of £90 but the children have asked that they do it again at some point. We are hoping to do it again at Christmas but may need to fund raise throughout the year to ensure we have enough money.

Parent Council

Many of our Parent Council members have now left as their children have moved on and we are looking for new volunteers.

I will be holding an online event after the October holidays which anyone can attend. The link will be sent out via group call and I would ask that as many of you attend that can and that you seriously consider joining our Parent Council. This year more than ever we are at a disadvantage as many of the school events that bring in money cannot go ahead. We are very keen that our children's learning and health and wellbeing do not suffer. Our children have made many sacrifices recently and we want to ensure school provides as many rich experiences as possible—sadly however these all cost money. We need your help.

And finally.....

Can I thank everyone for their support this term. The children have been wonderful and we are delighted at how well they have settled back into school life. A special shout out for our P1's who have also had a break for isolation and this has not phased them at all. We have completed a number of assessments and are reassured that the children have not lost too much of their learning.

Health and wellbeing assessments show that the majority of pupils are happy and settled however we are aware there are some who are anxious given the current situation and we are using programmes and strategies to help with that.

School has been a bit different this term but the ethos of the school, high quality interactions, positive relationships and fun and engaging learning activities are all very much still in place.

On behalf of all staff I wish all of our children and families a fun October break and I wish to thank all staff who have prioritised children's learning and ensured our school is a safe and happy place of learning.

God Bless

Mrs Brazill