

Mary Russell School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Julie McCallum

11 November 2020

BE ALL WE CAN BE! BE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE!

RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT CARE TRUST RESPONSIBILITY CO-OPERATION

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. This has been a challenging time for us all and we understand the pressures being placed upon our young people and yourselves as we move ever closer towards Christmas. In Mary Russell we are doing all we can to keep our school safe, and maintain a happy, welcoming and nurturing learning environment for all our pupils. The response from our pupils has been fantastic and we cannot thank you and them enough for your continued support.

Covid-19 Update

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has now introduced a system of new protection levels to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and Renfrewshire has been placed at Level 3. This means we have some extra guidance for schools to help keep everyone safe. Please see below: -

- Indoor PE for pupils can now be resumed, however our pool and changing areas continue to remain closed. Pupils should come to school in PE kit on the days they have PE on their timetables. Some PE classes will continue to take place outdoors due to accommodation constraints.
- Currently, school staff try to maintain a two-metre distance from pupils as normal practice, but when this is not possible now all staff are wearing face coverings. We are conscious of the impact this may have on some of our pupils. Where children require additional support, we will adopt different approaches to balance safety with the quality of communication.
- School staff and secondary pupils wear face coverings in all communal areas around the school and we regularly share with our pupils why this is important. Our senior pupils(S4-6) are now also wearing face coverings in classrooms.
- Visitors, parents and carers are requested to wear a face covering when visiting the school. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, we may also ask you to wait outside.
- The national advice highlights the importance of good ventilation within schools to minimise the spread of the virus. As we approach winter and colder weather, we will make sure that classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask you to please ensure pupils wear warm clothing, such as a jumper or fleece, in colder weather. Please contact us directly if we can be of assistance with this.

All of the above measures are in addition to existing safe practices in our school, which adhere to national guidance. These are already of a very high standard and include the following: -

- Regular and thorough cleaning in school by our 2 day cleaners.
- Provision of cleaning caddies and hand sanitiser in all communal and classroom areas.
- Very good handwashing routines by everyone.
- Good hand hygiene practised and encouraged after coughing or sneezing.
- 2 metre physical distancing between staff and amongst staff and pupils wherever possible.

- A robust one-way system limiting pupil movement around the school.
- Staggered breaks and lunchtimes with pupils having lunches brought to classrooms.
- Maintaining class and year group bubbles whenever possible.
- Good ventilation in classrooms and corridors.
- Wearing of face coverings on school transport by all pupils and bus escorts unless exempt.

Please continue to stay safe at home and follow the latest public health advice. If there is anything else you wish to discuss with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

More information on **what we are doing to keep schools safe** is available on Renfrewshire Councils website, as is a **guide to what to do if you suspect or have coronavirus.**

Reporting Pupil Progress

As a result of the current crisis we have taken the decision to postpone parent interviews which were scheduled to take place this term. Instead we will be issuing interim reports from teachers later this month. We are anticipating that annual review meetings will go ahead as planned in term 2 when you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with senior managers. Parent Interviews will now hopefully take place in term 3. As always however, please get in touch with guidance staff if you have any concerns about your child's learning or progress.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council met virtually recently however unfortunately at present does not have a Chairperson. Julie Telford has agreed to undertake this duty on an interim basis until a new Chair can be elected. Please see Julie's recent letter on our school website for further information.

Social Media

Please remember that you can keep up to date with all things good at Mary Russell School through our social media forums.

Our school website has lots of useful and interesting information about the school. It can be found at: <http://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/maryrussell/> As a consequence of covid-19 we are not issuing paper copies of school letters at the moment so our website is also where you will find all communications sent from the school following receipt of a text message. It is important that if you change your mobile phone number that you let our school office know. We are also in the process of collecting all contact information for parents so we can communicate with you via email. Our senior managers will be in touch with you if we do not have this information.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The official school Facebook page is called **The Adventures of Mary Russell School**. We have Twitter accounts for each department plus one for science. These are @Maryrussellpri @Maryrussellsec @Maryrussellstep & @Maryrussellscience. We hope you join us to enjoy what we are doing by liking, sharing and commenting on posts.

Our school app is another means of getting information from our school. However, at present our app provider is undertaking an upgrade process which means our app will no longer be supported on apple or android. Watch out for new information shortly on how to upgrade your app to the latest version.

I cannot believe that we will be breaking up for this term 5 weeks on Friday! We will try our best to normalise our Christmas activities for our pupils as much as we can but as you can imagine there may be some things which we just need to do differently. Please see our calendar below for some of our proposed activities (dates to be confirmed). As is the custom there will be no charge for any of our Christmas activities. If you require any additional information about our December calendar, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

As always, if you have any concerns or would like further information on any aspect of school life, please contact our school office. Contact can be made in person, by telephone or by email. We welcome your feedback.

Take care & keep safe

Julie

Julie McCallum
Head Teacher



Director of Children's Services – Steven Quinn

PROVISIONAL DECEMBER DIARY 2020 (may be subject to change)		
Date	Activity	
Monday 30 th November 2020	St Andrews Day Holiday School Closed	
Tuesday 1 st December 2020	School re-opens 9am	
Week beginning 7 th December 2020	Virtual pantomimes	Primary Department
Wednesday 9 th December 2020	Christmas Lunch Primary	Primary Department
Thursday 10 th December 2020	Christmas Lunch S1-S6	Secondary & Step Unit
Friday 11 th December 2020	Christmas Class Parties Christmas Jumper/Festive Colours Day	Primary Department All pupils & staff
Week beginning 14 th December 2020	Virtual Pantos Year Group Treats & Fun	Secondary & Step Unit
	Nativity – Watch out for further information	Primary Department
Wednesday 16 th December 2020	Virtual Christmas Service	All Pupils & Staff
Friday 18 th December 2020	School Closes @ 2.30pm	
Wednesday 6 th January 2021	School re-opens @ 9.am	