



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 18th September 2020



Tel: 01772 729881 www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

E-mail head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

HeadTeacher: Mrs. A.Brogden

*Happy are those who hear the word of God
and keep it' Luke 11:28*

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another week has ended in school and we have been blessed to have some lovely winter sunshine. Once again the pupils have worked well together and continue to impress us with how they adapt to school changes.

As you will be aware sadly the number of cases of Coronavirus continues to rise and we continue to work hard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and families. Guidance changes frequently and so we update risk assessments and amend guidance accordingly. It is crucial we work together. Further restrictions have been enforced by the Government and are explained fully on the Preston City website. I would ask ALL families to take the time to read this guidance fully. I have already had a few questions or queries re car sharing and collection and would refer all our families to the FAQ section within the document below.

<https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/2915/FAQ-on-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-can-t-do-in-Preston>

Bubble Arrival and Exit times, Social Distancing and parking

It is imperative we continue to work together to prevent infection and / or school closures. Please note the key safety reminders detailed below

- Pupils/ family members should not enter school grounds if they demonstrate ANY symptoms
- Bubbles open at 8.45 and 9.00 am and close at 3.00 and 3.15 pm. Please adhere strictly to times. We cannot be flexible in these times.
- At collection time only one adult should enter the school grounds
- Should you need to contact a staff member please email/ telephone school
- Please park on the Smith Arms pub and walk down to school at your allocated time

- Please wait in the car, when possible, until your child's Bubble time
- Do not gather around the school grounds and remember Social Distancing
- **Once your child has been received into the playground we ask families to leave the school area rather than waiting to wave pupil in- This is for everyone's safety**
- Pupils are not permitted to play on the equipment before or after school

Coronavirus Symptoms and Testing

If you or any member of your family have any symptoms the safest thing to do is get a test. You do not need to show EVERY symptom to get a test.

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. These symptoms are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

To organise a test you need to call 119 or visit Gov.uk. If a child is 'Symptomatic' in school they will be expected to get a test and we ask you to share the result before returning.

We appreciate currently demand is extremely high for tests. Below is the Government guidance.

Who can get a test?

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms can get a test.

Coronavirus symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

The Self Isolation guidance is shared below for a reminder which will be particularly relevant if you or a family member are symptomatic and waiting for a test.

How long to self-isolate?

If you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus, you'll usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.

You'll usually need to self-isolate for 14 days if:

- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

If you have any questions or queries please contact us at school. Thank you for continuing to work with us.

Free School Meals – Absence from school due to COVID-19

If your child is absent from school due to COVID-19, and they are currently eligible for free schools meals based on the household income, the school kitchen will be able to provide a packed lunch for your child. You will need to request this by contacting the school office by 9.30 a.m. each morning a lunch is required. You will need to make arrangements for the lunch to be collected at 11.30 a.m. from outside the school entrance.

School Photographs

Tempest Photography will be in school on Thursday 24th September from 8.30 a.m.. The photographer will take individual and family portraits. If you wish for younger siblings that don't attend school to join for the family photograph this slot will be at 8.30 am. – 9.00 a.m. in the School Hall.

Please note; In order to ensure safety and that we follow our Risk Assessments and Guidelines. Sibling portraits will be completed in slots and social distancing will be practised at all times.

Limited paper use

As you will be aware we are limiting the amount of 'paper use' to minimise the risk of viruses and prevent spread. Newsletters will be on our website. On the occasion a paper item is sent home this will usually need to remain at home.

School Bags

As you can imagine we constantly review and evaluate our Risk Assessments making changes and adaptation as required for the safety of all. At present, as we are unable to send home books and are limiting paper correspondence, it is not necessary for pupils to have school bags/ book bags in school. Pupils may continue to bring in water bottles and packed lunches as normal. P.E kits should be sent into school and remain in school. Thank you for your support.

EPIC reading



Get Epic! Online reading

We have been getting lots of queries about 'GetEpic!' online reading. I hope this information helps to clarify the steps required for the children to access 'GetEpic!' both inside and outside of school.

GetEpic! Is a free website that offers the children access to free reading, audio books, videos and quizzes. It is an American website and therefore I would suggest children select reading suitable for their ages. We will be relying on free online reading resources for the foreseeable future due to the current Covid situation and this website is one of the more reliable ones.

Please bear with the Oxford Owl website, all passwords and usernames are correct but the website is a free one and can be a little temperamental! Class login details can be found on the class pages.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Shoulder

How to access Epic!

Step 1

- Your child's teacher needs a parent email address to add to the class online Epic register. (This is what the school texts have been requesting, please email your child's class teacher with a current email if you haven't done so already.)

Step 2

- Your child's teacher the invites you to sign up to GetEpic! By generating an email from GetEpic.
(It is GetEpic! that need your consent for out of school reading on the website. I understand this consent gives them access to books between 4pm & 7pm. Please look out for this email and check your clutter/trash/spam folders.)

Step 3

- Once you have received the email you must respond to it to activate your child's reading account.

Step 4:

- Once you have activated your child's account visit <https://www.getepic.com/students>
- Each class has their own class passwords which are available on the class pages
- Your child should then be able to click on their name and select a book to read.

	<u>E.A.T Award</u> <u>Explore, Be Active and Think creatively</u>	<u>Achievement Award</u>
Class 1	Freddie Reid	Darcey Chambers
Class 2	Violet Jameson	Leos Koutsokostas
Class 3	Macie Dixon	Olivia Leigh
Class 4	Mason Dixon	Oliver Hodson

At St. Mary's School we

"Live our lives as Jesus taught us,

Work hard together to achieve our best,

Respect each other and the world around us,

Have fun and enjoy learning!"

