

Newsletter

Friday 14th January 2022



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents and Friends

Start of term...

Although I've said this to most of you since we started back, I'll say it again - Happy New Year!

It was great to welcome back the school community on Tuesday 4th January. The children came into school joyously, glad to see their friends and catch up on their Christmas holidays. Thankfully the wet weather hadn't dampened their spirits! On Thursday the 6th, despite not going ahead with our planned Whole School Mass in Church with Fr Francis, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and thought about our hopes for the world this coming year.



The children have really thrown themselves into their work this term – our theme being 'Peering into the Past' has a history focus, although I have already seen lots of science investigations taking place. We look forward to hearing shouts of "All aboard!" from our younger children as they enjoy some classic train stories and immerse themselves in our small world trains. After reading the story 'The Train Ride', the children really impressed us by collecting interesting nouns and adjectives related to what they may see on a train journey. Mrs Myatt reported, "It was great fun exploring language together from the 'tall, towering buildings' to the 'soft, fluffy sheep'."

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As we return to school, we are faced with a change in how we deal with positive Covid cases. Currently the guidance is:

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all pupils who have tested at home and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. **We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)**

Schools are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.



Safety in the car park

I know that our car park is challenging at the best of times – I don't know of any school who doesn't have any issues around pick up and drop off; however I am asking you to support school in keeping your children safe by driving slowly in the car park. Please be hyper-vigilant of children around you when parking or leaving as some of our children wouldn't be easily seen in a windscreen mirror when reversing. Please can I also ask that you remain patient with other

drivers and pedestrians. Thank you for your continued support in this important and sometimes frustrating matter.



PTFA

Message from our Chair – Michelle:

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets or helped us out with contributing items the hampers and to those who helped to make up the hampers. They were a great success! We raised £253 on the raffle tickets and out that we bought Christmas crackers for the children's Christmas dinner. We also raised £52:60 from the sweet jar competition.

We are still waiting to hear back from the book fair regarding the total amount raised – thank you to everyone who helped out each day and thank you to those of you who bought books.

We were also given a wonderful donation from the Crown Inn, Marnhull – but we've yet to collect it – we will let you know in due course.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th January. If you have any ideas for future events or fundraising, please let Michelle know.

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child attends to school with appropriate school uniform – there continues to be a lot of trainers and boots being worn. We have lots of pre-loved uniform – please enquire at the office.



Winter Wear

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium grey long trousers or shorts • Red school sweatshirt with school logo • White button through shirt • Tie – red with blue stripes • Grey socks • Sensible black or dark brown shoes. No trainers or boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers • Red school sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo • White button through shirt • Tie – red with blue stripes • Sensible black or dark brown shoes. No trainers or boots

Parents Evening

We will be having live, face to face parents' meetings on:

Monday 14th February 2022 – 3:30 – 5:30pm

Wednesday 16th February 2022 5-7pm

Please contact teachers directly through **Class Dojo**

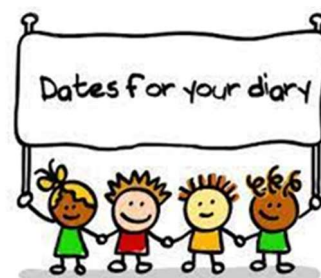
requesting your preferential day and an hour slot, from which you will be allocated a 10 minute appointment. The meetings will take place in classrooms, but please note that Miss Smith will be situated in Mr Young's classroom as well. The teachers are very excited to speak to you about how your child is settling in and what their learning focus will be.



Please follow us on Twitter @stmarysmarnhull – it would be great to increase the number of followers we have.

Dates for your diary:

- **Please note change of date due to courses taking place**
Tuesday 15th February Monday 14th February – parents' meetings
- **Wednesday 16th February** – parents' meetings
- **Friday 18th February** – last day of Spring Half term
- **Monday 28th February** - INSET Day
- **Wednesday 2nd March** - Ash Wednesday service
- **Thursday 3rd March** - World Book Day
- **Friday 18th March** – Red Nose Day
- **Friday 8th April** – last day of Spring term



God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher