



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Week Ending 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome children back to school this week. I think I speak for all of us when I say that we all felt a mixture of emotions. However, I am pleased to say that the children have adapted fantastically well to our new 'normal'.

We have welcomed back Mrs. Hussain in the school office and we now have all the staff back in school working hard to support your child/ren. Thank you for your messages of support and for ensuring that you had read and understood the updated guidance to prepare your child with their return to school.

Thank you for keeping a safe distance from each other when you arrive to drop children off or collect them and for following the one-way system near the Key Stage 2 playground.

Here are some notices below to keep you up to date with information:



## REMINDER

Any child/ren absent from school due to parents/carers choosing not to send them will result in an UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE. Unauthorised absences can result in families receiving attendance fines from the Local Authority.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please inform the school office immediately via email ([enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk)) if your contact details have changed. This is imperative for us to ensure we can adhere to Test and Trace procedures.

# NHS Test and Trace



Got coronavirus symptoms?



If you have been in close contact with someone who tests positive



## SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEOS ON TEST AND TRACE

It has been brought to my attention that there are some videos circulating on social media explaining that schools can take children to isolation centres and will administer Covid-19 tests on children without parental permission. **Please note that this is NOT our procedure.** If your child should display any of the 3 Covid-19 symptoms, you will be contacted immediately. Your child will be taken to a room in the school with a member of staff. A member of staff will supervise your child until they are collected. **YOU MUST** then get your child tested for Covid-19 and inform the school immediately once you have your result.

If your child's test result is positive then you and your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. As we are operating a bubble system in school. Parents of children in the same bubble will be notified and will need to also self-isolate for 14 days. In this circumstance, work will be provided on BGfL for children to access from home as it is an expectation that children complete home learning activities unless they are too ill to do so.

**The internet can be a rich source of information on Covid-19 and school procedures. But it isn't always clear whether the information is reliable. Creditable information should be objective, unbiased (not have an 'agenda') and when related to Covid-19, be based on scientific evidence, not hearsay. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with the school via email on: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk).**

## Water Bottles



All children in school have access to drinking water to fill their water bottles up. If your child is able to, please encourage them to wash their water bottle in school. We are happy for water bottles to go home but please ensure they are labelled to avoid any water bottles going home with the wrong child.



## Size of rucksacks

Some children are coming into school with very big rucksacks. Please ensure that children bring a reasonable size bag into school with a packed lunch (if necessary) and a healthy snack. There is no need for children to bring in reading bags, P.E. bags, pencil cases or any other items from home. Thanks for your understanding.

## PARENT MEETINGS WITH NEW CLASS TEACHERS - Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September

Next week, we will be hosting parent meetings for you to meet your child/ren's new class teacher/s and to hear about our expectations for your child/ren this year. We will also explain how we have planned the curriculum so that your child will be able to complete work they have missed due to the pandemic and still cover all key concepts and objectives from this year to ensure they get back on track with age-appropriate learning. This meeting will be held in the school hall and chairs will be socially distanced. Please understand that only 1 ADULT is to attend the meeting and you will be guided to a chair by a member of staff. Please ensure you leave in the same order that you enter to allow for social distancing.

Day	Time	Year group
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	2.30-3.00pm	Year 1
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00-9.30am	Year 2
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	2.30pm-3.00pm	Year 5
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00-9.30am	Year 3
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	2.00-2.30pm	Year 6
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00-9.30am	Year 4

Please note: If you would prefer not to attend the meeting, or you are unable to do so, we will happily email you the PowerPoint presentation of the meeting. Please request this via email.

### COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Communication with parents is important to us and we value your feedback. We need to work together more than ever to ensure we are supporting your child in the best way we can. We have always used our school planners to communicate through but unfortunately, until further notice, we will no longer be using the school planners. Instead, we would like you to email the school office on: [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk). Please state in the email subject who your message is for the attention of, for example; FAO: Mrs. xxxx regarding my child xxxx. The office will forward this email on to the member of staff. It is our aim to respond to emails by the next day. If your matter is urgent, you should contact the school office on: 0121 357 9892 and a member of staff will call you back. Please do not send in notes or letters via your children.

We are using text messages to communicate any basic first aid incidences and pass on any brief information about your child. Staff will telephone parents if the incident/information is more pressing.

### MORNING SNACKS

Thank you for providing children with healthy snacks.



### Swimming

No class will currently be swimming but we hope to start soon and will notify you of any changes.

### FOOD PARCELS

We recognise that some families have faced a great deal of financial instability in the last 6 months and we would like to help any family struggling financially. The St. Vincent de Paul charity are supporting some families in school by providing fortnightly food parcels. If you would like to receive a fortnightly food parcel, please speak to the school office, either via email or telephone ([enquiry@stmarkrc.bham](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham) / 0121 357 9892).

### SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING...

We are very proud of the children for adapting so well to a number of changes in school this week. Well done everyone! We will continue to support and develop their wellbeing as the weeks go by and if you have any concerns or queries - please do get in touch.

Please check out the following website for some very valuable information on accessing support for your child's mental health and wellbeing:



[www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk](http://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk)



## HOMEWORK

All homework will be set on online. We will be continuing to use [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) for Maths and Bug Club ([www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)) for Reading. Your child/ren will also have weekly spellings to learn as well as a Writing activity.

Your child/ren's class teacher/s will explain more about homework expectations at the parent meetings during the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Please ensure you and your child have the log in codes and passwords to access their BGfL and Bug Club accounts.**

## PE Days for Autumn Term 1

Below are the PE days for your child. Until further notice we request that on the day/s your child is doing P.E., they come into school dressed in black or grey trousers/jogging bottoms and with trainers on to take part in their P.E. lessons. **Children must not bring a separate P.E. kit into school.** We expect children to be dressed in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM ON OTHER DAYS and we expect normal black school shoes to be worn on all other days.

Days your child will be doing PE:	
Monday	Years 5 and 6
Tuesday	Years 1, 2,
Wednesday	
Thursday	Years 1, 2, 3, 4
Friday	Reception

## TEST AND TRACE PROCEDURES

Playing your part:

- If you develop symptoms, you must continue to follow the rules to self-isolate with ALL members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus. **YOU MUST INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.**
- If you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly (PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ONCE YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULT). You must also notify your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help the NHS alert other people who may need to self-isolate.



- If you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so. PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE.
- If you are returning from travel abroad it is important to check whether you need to self-isolate. REMEMBER, YOU MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL FOR ANY ABSENCES.

**Please note: School will be closed on  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October for a whole school INSET**

Finally, thank you all very much for your support and patience this week.

**Have a great weekend and stay safe!**

**Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team**



### **I Said A Prayer For You Today**

*I* said a prayer for you today  
and know  
God must have heard.  
I felt the answer in my heart  
although He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,  
I knew you wouldn't mind.  
I asked Him for some treasures  
of a far more lasting kind.

*I* asked that He'd be near you  
at the start of each new day,  
to grant you health and blessings  
and friends to share the way.  
I asked for happiness for you  
in all things great and small.  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed for most of all.