

Newsletter

Friday 11th February 2022



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents and Friends

Promise of Spring...

As I drove home the other evening, I suddenly noticed that it was still light at 5:20pm! It really makes such a difference. I'm also lucky to be surrounded by beautiful scenery on my journey to and from school, and I'm now seeing snowdrops sprouting up and daffodils beginning to blossom. I love Spring and witnessing nature waking up after its winter slumber. It also reminds me of all the exciting things we can look forward to in school as the weather gets warmer.

There has been a lot going on this half term, despite the disruption from Covid: St Francis and St Alban's have been taking part in guitar lessons, St Marks and Pre-school have been on a welly walk down to the paddock. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, all the children had a great session with Gemma Osborne from Shaftesbury Tae Kwon Do Club. On Internet Safety Day, the children explored the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. We have also had some work done in school to put in a new fence at the bottom of the field, this is higher than the previous one as we work to continuing to keep your children safe.

Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation and understanding over the half term. Hopefully, we are over the worst but for the time being, our measures will continue with ventilation, hand washing and increased cleaning regimes. Please could we ask that you test your children twice weekly and continue notifying us of the symptoms your child may be experiencing if they do test positive.

Currently the guidance is:

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive LFD or PCR test result

If you develop any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate immediately.

If you have a positive LFD or PCR test result but do not have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results. You should do this even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Other people in your household might need to self-isolate too. Please see information on what the other members of your household need to do.

UK Health Security Agency

How to reduce the spread of infection with the people you live with if you have COVID-19.

If you have COVID-19, there is a high risk that others in your household will catch it from you. There are several things you can do to reduce the spread of infection in your household.

- 1** Limit close contact with others. Spend as little time as possible in communal areas.
- 2** Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces and shared rooms like kitchens and bathrooms.
- 3** Wash your hands regularly using soap and water, particularly after coughing and sneezing.
- 4** Get help where possible from those you live with. Ask for help with cleaning and being brought food safely to avoid unnecessary contact.
- 5** Use a face covering if you need to spend time in shared spaces.
- 6** Keep rooms well ventilated.
- 7** Catch coughs and sneezes in disposable tissues and put them straight in the bin.

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Safety in the car park

As I mentioned in our previous newsletters, please continue to be vigilant for young children when in the car park. Parents, please ensure you have your children close to you when dropping off and picking up. Thank you.



Parents Evening

We look forward to holding our parents' meetings with you on:

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

Wednesday 16th February 2022 5-7pm

If you haven't already done so, 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 your child's progress in school and how you can further support their learning at home.

In light of our recent challenges with COVID, please ensure you have had a negative lateral flow test before attending your appointment. Thank you.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week takes place on 7-13 February 2022. This year's theme is Growing Together. Children have been encouraged to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

There are free resources which will help you take part in the week. Please see the links for resources which may help.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/children-s-mental-health-week/>

In addition to these, there is an attachment which has links to Mental Health Services for Dorset



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

Dates for your diary:

- **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