St Mary's News

Issue 13
11th December 2020

St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School
Barn Street, Stoke Newington,

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you all for your patience this week as we had to overcome some challenges due to one case of Covid 19, the impact of that and general staff sickness! Please be assured that whilst St Mary's will do everything it can to keep children in school, we will risk assess each situation keeping safety at the forefront of our minds , ensuring we have appropriate cover and ratios for the children. This has and may (in the future) result in classes having to close.

Last week school leaders were told to be available to support with test and trace within school should a child or staff member test positive in the 6 days following the close of school (first 6 days of the Christmas holiday).

Following this, an update from the Department for Education on Tuesday evening, suggested that, schools make Friday 18th December an Inset day (non teaching day).

They suggest that the Inset day would allow staff time off on Christmas Eve from helping with test and trace activities and give teachers a 'break'.

We will not be having an inset day and as per our term dates, children will remain in school until 1.30pm next Friday 18th December.

Here are the reasons for this decision:

- The short notice does not take into account that our INSET days are planned almost a year ahead and that parents have been given those dates months ago and need time to make alternative arrangements.
- Whilst it is true that teachers need their break, the INSET day idea doesn't really make any difference to teachers generally; it is only myself, Mrs Mckelvey and Mrs Joseph as senior leaders that will need to be involved in track and trace.
- As a senior leadership team we had already decided that we would periodically check school emails throughout the Christmas Break (and not just for the first 6 days) and support with track and trace as required.
- Having an INSET day on the Friday will not prevent staff or children from having to isolate over the Christmas break should they get symptoms or test positive. If the government had wanted to prevent that we would have had to have finished school this week.

I hope that you agree with our decision *not* to make Friday 18th December an inset day.

If your child does test positive for Covid during the Christmas break please email bmckelvey@st-marys.hackney.sch.uk and we will endeavour to make contact with you and support with test and trace as needed.

Thank you to the families that have donated goodies for our 'Seek Joy in Service at Christmas' scheme. These donations will be quarantined and then distributed next week. Also let us know if things are a bit difficult this Christmas and there might be something we can help with. Email bmckelvey@st-marys.hackney.sch.uk Nobody else need to know who has written. If we can help then we will! Only Mrs McKelvey and myself (Mrs O'Brien) have access to this email address, otherwise it will be completely confidential. Please use the email

With kind regards

Jane O'Brien

Headteacher

Christmas Jumper day/Christmas Dinner

Please wear your Christmas jumper and accessories with your school uniform

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Christmas fun day

Children will take part in class Christmas activities throughout the day!

Thursday 17th December 2020

Christmas holidays

School finishes for the Christmas Holidays on

Friday 18th December 2020 at 1.30pm.

Please pick up your child promptly as late fines will apply and staff want to start their Christmas break on time!

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Sickness and testing

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

F YOUR CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS THEY MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL OR IF THEY DEVELOP THEM IN SCHOOL, WILL BE SENT HOME. SIBLINGS SHOULD STAY AT HOME TOO.

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms -If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

School are happy to support you with booking a test online however, it is extremely difficult to book online at the moment. If you or your child needs to have a test we have been advised that the following places have walk in centres.

Bentley Road - Walk in	Bentley Road car park, Dalston, N1 4DB	8am - 8pm seven days a week
Hackney Central - Walk in	340 Mare St, E8 1HA	8am - 8pm seven days a week
Sandford Court - walk in	Bethune Rd, N16 5BB	8am - 8pm seven days a week
Stamford Hill - Walk & drive through	Yesodey Hatorah School, Egerton Road, N16 6UB	10.30am-3.30pm on the following days: December: 13, 20, 27 Dec
Hackney Marshes - Walk & drive through	Hackney Marshes Leisure Centre, Homerton Rd, LE9 5PF	10.30am-3.30pm on the following days: December: 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31 Dec

Prayer

Dear Lord,

At this time of pandemic,

Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are less able or struggling.

Let us remain calm and grow hope in times of challenge

Let us take advantage of our families and the precious moments we can share.

Let us attend to moments of prayer for a safe and peaceful Christmas for all.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and love for our community, doing the right things to help stop the spread of this virus.

Amen.

CELEBRATION

N	GRACE
R	CHIKE
YR 1	OLIVIA
YR 2	ISIAS
YR 3	KIMARLA
YR 4	JAMAL
YR 5	ZAC
	MYA

Headteachers' stars of the week are given to pupils who have demonstrated that they are living out our school values.

SPANISH	N/A
MUSIC	VICTORY
PE	J'NIYAH

CELEBRATION—ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE WINNERS

YEAR 2

100%

PUNCTUALITY WINNERS

NURSERY

1 LATE

" Good attendance and punctuality is a large factor in positive out-comes for children. Lets all aim to be here every day and on time.

Class	Attendance %	Rank	Number of lates (punctuality)	Rank
N	98.99	4TH	1	1ST
R	99.58%	2ND	6	6TH
1	96.71	5TH	11	7TH
2	100%	1ST	5	4TH
3	94.38%	6TH	5	4TH
4	99.11%	3RD	4	3RD
5	93.06%	7TH	2	2ND
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A