



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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15th September 2020

Dear Parent

September is dedicated to the Sorrows of Mary

Today (15th) is the actual feast day.

Welcome to our new Reception children (and families) who have begun their two-week induction period – the beautiful sunshine greeted them – let us hope this is a sign of things to come! 😊

START of SCHOOL DAY Times – PLEASE KEEP TO TIMINGS:

- **KS2 (children in Y3-Y6)** to arrive between **8:15 and 8:30**
- **Children with siblings**, regardless of key stage, to arrive between **8:30 and 8:45**
- **KS1 children** (infants) to arrive between **8:45 and 9:00**

END OF DAY - Timings

Please respect our **ONE-WAY** system which has been set up for your protection. Please, if you arrive early allow parents with younger children to line up first so that adults are not crossing over each other.

Once you have departed – **DO NOT** return!

2.55pm	Reception (<u>without</u> siblings)
3.05pm	Reception (<u>with</u> siblings)
3.15pm	Y1 (including siblings)
3.20pm	Y2 (including siblings)
3.25pm	Y3 (including siblings)
3.30pm	Y4 (including siblings)
3.35pm	Y5 (including siblings)
3.40pm	Y6

Thank you for your support.

Parents **MUST** line up in a socially distanced way to collect their child – you will enter the school driveway on the LEFT side of the barrier, form a queue down the drive and collect your child. You must then depart immediately on the pathway alongside the parish centre.

All arrangements are subject to constant review.

NB: We are aware that our arrangements will not meet everyone's needs/wants/preferred circumstance – however, we are attempting to manage 420 children and staff in frequently changing times. Our decisions are thoughtfully and thoroughly discussed and we ask that ALL parents abide by them. We cannot make changes to suit individuals. Our overriding remit is to keep our pupils and staff safe and well within what we know at any given time and according to government direction. Thank you!

IMPORTANT ...

If you, or one of your children, has any symptoms of COVID 19 and you are going to have a test ALL the members of that household **MUST** isolate until a) the isolation period has passed and/or b) there is a negative test result. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS WAITING FOR TEST RESULTS!!!**

COVID Guidelines to Keep us all Safe!

1. Self-isolation means just that! Children should be at home for the duration of the two-week period. This includes not attending Mass.

Ordinary Time – Week 24: Forgive 70 x 7 (unceasingly).



2. Children are NOT exempt from the Birmingham lockdown and it is inappropriate from today (Tuesday 15th) for children to be picked up or go home with anyone **other than a family member who lives in the same house as them or the family who is part of their support bubble.**

Birmingham City Council directive states:

“What about if a relative provides childcare for me?”

Friends or family who you do not live with should not visit your home to help with childcare **unless they are part of your support bubble.**

The only people who should help you with childcare in your home are people you live with, people in your support bubble or registered childcare providers, including nannies.

What is a support bubble?

A support bubble is a close support network between a household with only one adult in the home (known as a single-adult household) and **one other household of any size.**

Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in a single household with people from the other household. It means you can have close contact with that household as if they were members of your own household.

Once you make a support bubble, you should not change who is in your bubble.”

Be kind - we do not make the rules!

Face Coverings:

The Government, based on the advice of medical experts, has stated that primary aged children do not need to wear face masks in school. We have a small number who have decided that their child should. However, our observations tell us that these children are constantly touching them (which breaches their safety and the whole rationale for wearing them), they are uncomfortable all day in them and their beautiful faces/expressions are hidden.

We ask that our children DO NOT wear masks in school.

Congratulations!

Tom He took part in the UK Chess Challenge this summer, the largest British junior chess tournament. It was all played online rather than face-to-face, and more than 2,000 players played in it across five different age groups. Tom qualified for the Under 10 finals - played last weekend, and finished 8th out of 62. Fantastic achievement, Tom!

ALSO – huge congratulations to Milly Hackett who entered the competition below (during lockdown) and WON £1000 for St Mary's and a Gastronom Live Show by BBC presenter Stefan Gate.

“Help a South African School, and be in with a chance of winning £1,000 for your school and a Gastronom Live Show by BBC presenter Stefan Gates!”

We are blessed with our talented and eager children – well done and thank you, Milly.

Yours sincerely,

H M Cusack
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