



or, "here we go again" 😊

Dear Parents,

- New security fencing work to commence during half term**- As explained last week, our security fencing updates commence during half term. Please note the following changes to arrangements for collecting and dropping children into school from Monday 22nd February - Friday 5th March.
 - Reception and Nursery children** will be greeted at the top of the entrance to the car park by staff at 8.45am (or for Nursery children of non critical workers 9.10am). They will then be escorted to their classrooms. Reception and Nursery children will be escorted to the entrance to the car park, each afternoon.
 - Y3 children (and siblings)** will be redirected to Cranleigh Close Entrance each a.m and p.m, temporarily.
- Y3 parents- change to pick up arrangements up to half term.** We have noticed a little bit of unnecessary waiting and queuing at our front entrance, so from today, we will arrange for Y3 children to be ready at the bottom of the car park for their Mums /Dads and relatives to collect. We hope that reduces waiting times and then people can leave the site more quickly. Many thanks in advance, Y3 parents.
- Remote Learning Questionnaires.** We are really delighted to hear from almost 1/3 of all parents so quickly after launching our Remote Learning Questionnaire. The feedback is really positive and very reassuring as staff now know that almost all parents are genuinely appreciative of the flexibility, ingenuity and additional time that is being given **after** a busy day teaching, in school. We are also listening carefully to some good ideas for the future, that we feel will benefit our children at St Mary's and their parents. We will be in touch soon. Remember, if you have not completed the questionnaire yet, the link is on the Homepage of the school website. It is live for at least another week. Please share your thoughts. They are **all** important to us.
- Thank you**- We have been spoiled this week, with some genuinely lovely gestures from parents; from treats, to kind words, from smiles to encouraging, appreciative remarks. Thank you to all who have taken the time to spread a little happiness, especially during Mental Health Week. Staff have been genuinely touched.
- School numbers** have now reached record heights. Currently, 57% of Critical Workers' children are attending across the week, **To those parents who can work from home, whose children may be saying No, please speak with class teachers**, as we need them to understand that just as happens in school, **No** is not an option when it comes to their school work, wherever they are. We look forward to a full return to school, but **we are bound by government legislation- Critical Worker children only, in school.**

February updates and reminders -

Parents of children who wish to attend SMA Nursery from September 2021, who have not submitted an application yet, need to have their **application in by Monday February 22nd at the latest**. Governors will rank the applications according to the published criteria and parents will receive confirmation via post or email shortly afterwards.

Friday 12th February is an INSET Day, as previously published, and indicated on our school website. Work will be set for Mon- Thursday, next week, but there will be no Remote Learning and no school on that day.

Children in school- no jewellery, other than sleepers in gold. silver or school colours will be allowed in school. Similarly, all hair needs to be tied back . We do not allow tramlines in school for boys or for girls. Please remember these rules have not and will not change.

Mrs Joyce, as our First Aider, has forwarded a copy of a very useful poster, (attached) alerting all parents to the signs of Sepsis.

Other news- Engagement with Mental

Health Week has been good. Thanks to all of those who chose their favourite or significant colours to wear today. School was a very bright colourful place to be remotely, via Teams' meetings and chats, this week, and in reality! Remember to spread that happiness over into the weekend, children

We look forward to Congratulations' Assembly again tomorrow. And new stories and dance opportunities,

And Finally... Yesterday was the feast

of Candlemas, when Christ was presented, joyfully, in the temple. We hope that some of the joy of the feast is felt in your homes, this weekend.

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"