

St Margaret's CE Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome Back

I hope you and your family are keeping well during this difficult time. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience in adapting to the changes we have put in place at school, particularly at the start and end of the school day. The children have adapted very well to other changes in school such as staggered lunch-times, frequent hand washing, one way systems and staggered break-times within their 'Bubbles'. In addition to these measures we have additional cleaning being carried out throughout the day. May I also thank those parents who have been vigilant in identifying coronavirus symptoms within their family and informed school accordingly.

You may be aware of a number of schools both locally and nationally having to close to certain 'bubbles' or year groups due to positive coronavirus cases. Should there be a positive case at St Margaret's, all parents will be informed in a timely manner and we will be working closely with Public Health England to 'track and trace' any individuals/groups who need to isolate. If your child's class is told to isolate, work will be provided for them to complete at home during this time.

In order to minimise the chances of a positive case, it is important that we are all aware of the symptoms of Covid-19 and only well children attend school.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- 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)
- Loss of 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 one of these symptoms. Information about COVID-19 symptoms and management of the virus can be found here, www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ If you or your child being to show symptoms you must follow the national guidance. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you develop symptoms you must self-isolate at home arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – visit NHS.UK to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

New Classes

As the children have settled so well back into school we will be moving forward their transition to their new classes. You will receive notification of your child's new class this week as well as their start time and entrance/exit point.

From next week we will be using hand sanitiser in all KS1 and KS2 classes in addition to frequent hand washing. Please let us know if you do not wish for your child to use hand sanitizer.

When your child starts in their new class next Monday 21st September they will bring home their class newsletter later that week. Unfortunately, due to current guidance which emphasises limiting the number of items being brought to and from school, homework challenges will be suspended this term. Children have access to the Purple Mash, Times Tables Rockstars and Google Classroom online learning platforms. Purple Mash has a wide range of resources should you wish for your child to gain more practice in core maths and English skills at home. If you are unsure what your child could benefit from most then please ask their class teacher.

We will continue with our system of rewards this year. However, rather than postcards coming home, they will be displayed in the classroom, celebrating the children's achievements. Your child will continue to engage in weekly worship which will be class based. We begin next week exploring the theme of 'Firm Foundations' through the story of 'The House on the Rock' from Matthew's Gospel.

Place 2 Be

This year we are continuing our work with Place 2 Be which is a national charity providing emotional and therapeutic support to over 250 schools in the UK. One of the most popular aspects of this service is called Place2Talk. It is open to all pupils. They can make an appointment to spend 15 minutes with a trained counsellor, either by themselves or with a friend. On average, about a third of pupils in Place2Be schools take advantage of this service every year. Pupils often ask about friendships or any worries they may have.

Unless we hear otherwise from you, the school and Place2Be will assume that all pupils have their parent/carers' permission to come to Place2Talk. We will also assume you are happy for the school to tell Place2Be your child's name, date of birth, year group, gender and ethnicity. This information is stored securely and used solely to evaluate Place2Be's service. To find out more, please talk to Sue Bower, our Place2Be School Project Manager.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr D. R. Whittle (Headteacher)

