



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter 22

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday. We hope that the children are excited to return and that the class check-ins have been useful this week in order to answer children's questions and prepare them for the return to school. Next week, we have lots of look forward to including World Book Day which will be held next Friday 12th March. On this day, children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character or bring a prop from a book. We would also like children to bring their chosen book with them into school if this is possible. The children will then spend the day taking part in themed activities which we really hope everyone will enjoy.

To prepare for the return of all the children, please ensure you have read through the document emailed to you alongside last week's newsletter regarding the reopening of school. It has also been uploaded on to the school website. Here is a brief reminder of things children will need to bring with them each day:-

Filled water bottle – children are welcome to bring two if they would like.

Named headphones - Key Stage Two children will be continuing to complete some of their work online using our new Chromebooks. As children will be working on different modules, headphones are very useful in aiding concentration in class.

Passwords – if your child has changed the password which was issued to them when their new Google account /Acorn profile was set up, please make sure they bring this with them so that they are able to access their account in school.

Clubs

We hope to offer a variety of different activity lunchtime/after school clubs for children after the Easter holidays once updated guidance is issued. We will contact you with a list of available clubs nearer the time so that you can sign up your child if they would like to attend.

Lateral flow testing for parents with children at school

The DfE have asked us to pass on the following, which has been announced this week by NHS Test and Trace.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support and for supporting your children through this period of National Lockdown. We really want to ensure that each child's journey back into school is as smooth as possible so please do contact us if there are ways in which we can support further. We look forward to welcoming back all members of our school community and continuing to live, learn and grow together.

Best wishes to you all,

Miss Smith

Head of School