

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 5: 15.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and safe in these uncertain times. The virus situation is getting difficult and I'm sure many of you are under strain with job uncertainty, vulnerable family members, planning for social gatherings, albeit small ones, working from home .... and so on. The government do, at the moment, seem committed to keeping schools open and our ability to be here, 5 days a week, with very high attendance, is a huge comfort during this challenging period.

I see lots of you at the school gates, but we are fully aware that sometimes you need to speak to your child's class teacher. We will be making an opportunity for this at parent consultations in November and details of these will follow shortly after half term. If you have an urgent need to speak to a teacher, please call the office between 8.00 and 5.00 on school days to make an appointment.

I really miss our school community regular events, sharing assemblies with the pop-up café, Friday tea stalls, parents in to support with various things such as calendar artwork and cycle training. I will so appreciate all of these when they are back and never moan about tea stall mess again!

We are delighted that we can offer after school club to year 3 and offer a selection of after school activity clubs to years 4, 5 and 6 starting after the half term break. We will not mix bubbles so cannot offer after school club to any more year groups. The weekly Local Authority virtual meetings are very clear that schools must stick to year group bubbles to avoid potential closure of schools to large groups of pupils. I am aware that some schools are mixing year groups in after school clubs, but this is not recommended. It is not too late to return a form about activity clubs – deadline is tomorrow, Friday 16 October.

The school kitchen team will be providing a hot lunch in classrooms after half term. The menu has already been sent out. We have some meat free days and two options daily. We hope this may encourage more children to take a school lunch. Our governors will monitor school lunch options and our school cook is always happy to hear feedback.

I've been doing lots of duties recently and am enjoying watching the children playing well together using a long skipping rope, the basketball and netball nets, cricket and football equipment, the monkey bars, scrambling net and parallel bars, as well as charging around with sticks using their imaginations! We are now off the field but benefit from lots of tarmacked playground with something of interest for most children.

We have one full week left before the October half term which starts on **Monday 26 October**. We return to school on **Monday 2 November**.

Best wishes, Liz Burton