



Ethos statement for this week and next week: **We are all special**
I can say one good thing about myself

WELCOME BACK TO EVERYONE!!!

It has been wonderful to welcome every year group back into school this week and quite emotional too. On behalf of myself and all the St Mary's staff can I say a big thank you to all our parents and family members for helping us with both drop off and collection of children. As you have been aware it is a logistical nightmare to ensure 300+ children arrive and depart safely. We have made minor changes but you have helped enormously by arriving just before your allocated times and waiting in cars or further away from the gates to enable as much social distancing as is possible in these circumstances.

Our children have been AMAZING. They have adapted to the new routines with smiles and patience. We are all well versed in washing and gelling of hands!! I am sure many of them are very tired today, I know we are. Lots of children have told me how happy they are to be back and how they have missed everyone, especially their friends. I really hope we can avoid further lockdowns this Autumn term.

We know we are still in local restriction due to a rising number of positive cases so it is vital that families do let us know if anyone in their household is showing symptoms and the result of any testing. We are continuing with a zero acceptance of any child who shows signs of illness within the school setting particularly a high temperature, persistent cough, change to their sense of taste or smell. Please do not send your child to school if they are suffering from any of these symptoms and of course the usual sickness and diarrhea (24 hours since the last episode of either or 48 if suffering from both.)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS and SCHOOL COLLECTION PROCEDURES- Please can you let the school office know if you have changed your mobile number- ideally the office should have 2 contacts if your child is ill. Could we also have an email address in case we can't get through on the phone. If your child spends a significant amount of time during the week with different parents, please make sure we have up to date numbers for you both. Thank you

You will receive an update form next week which request information as to who collects your child each day etc. Please send these back in asap especially if there are multiple people who collect and/or there are people who should not be collecting your child.

If your child is in Yr 5/6 (classes 9-11) they may walk to and from school on their own but only if you have sent a signed letter giving them permission. Please note they cannot take younger siblings home on their own.

Please let the school office or class teacher know if another parent is collecting your child.

If you need to collect your child during school sessions, especially the afternoons an appointment card, letter or text is required.

PE-can all children bring their PE kits to school on Monday and take them home Friday for washing. It is useful to add a pair of joggers as the weather turns colder/damper as PE is outdoors. Thank you.

DINNERS- The coloured banding system continues this year. If your child is going to be late or has a planned medical appointment please let the office know what your child's dinner choice is so a meal can be ordered.

Children who have moved into Yr 3 are required to pay for school meals. Any family from R-Yr 6 can apply for free school meals and each new successful claim helps school with extra money into our budget. The added benefit is you also get free milk too. In the event of further lockdown or if your child has to self-isolate you would be eligible for help towards lunches.

If you are in receipt of one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but are not entitled to a Working Tax Credit and your annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) is less than £16,190
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Please go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01484 221928

We have to stagger lunch times due to keeping class bubbles separate so this week classes 9-11 do not get their lunch until 12.45pm. Next week it will be classes 6-8 so you might want to send a fruit snack to school with your child if they are in KS2. KS1 children still get a free fruit snack each morning. At the current time the kitchen staff are not permitted to mix with the children so all meals are boxed up in the kitchen and school staff distribute them in the dining hall. Strict disinfecting of tables is used between sittings.

FLU VACCINATION FORMS- coming home next week. The nasal vaccine will be administered on 12th November. Please return asap.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB- Coach Nikki is currently collating interest for an after school club. At this time just complete the form and send back to school. No money is required as she has to confirm which bubbles she can accommodate first.

START AND END TIMES- there is a slight amendment to these as from Monday.

Reception	start 8.55am	end 3.05pm (bottom gate as before)
Classes 9-11 (and siblings)	start 8.50am	end 3.05pm (top gate)
Classes 6-8 (and siblings)	start 8.55am	end 3.10pm (top gate)
Classes 4-5	start 9am	end 3.20pm (top gate)
Class 2	start 9am	end 3.20pm (bottom gate)

DIARY DATES

Thurs 22nd Oct School finishes for half term

Friday 23rd Oct School closed for staff INSET day

Mon 3rd School reopens for pupils.

Wed 12th flu nasal spray

The school office remains closed to parents so please ring or email any queries to office@stmarysbatley.co.uk