



Our Virtue: Faith

Welcome back – Happy New Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year - it is great to see the children back at the start of another busy term.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Mrs Gregson has been working with the children to prepare and be ready for January 18th when we are looking forward to the children's reception of the next sacrament of the church after Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We wish them well.

After an interruption due to Covid we are now able to reinstate our preparation classes in school. Letters have gone out this week so please complete your forms and sent them back as soon as possible. Thank you.

Covid update – Jan 11th testing will change

As you may already aware there have been changes to the national guidance for isolation, this is attached for your information below. I will update you about PCR testing changes when they come into force on the 11th January:

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

The key existing measures in place are:

- Hand washing will remain a focus and will be regularly done throughout the day.
- All rooms will be well ventilated throughout the day.

Additional measures remaining in place include:

- Co2 monitors are now placed in every classroom to assist in monitoring ventilation.
- Whole school assemblies have been stopped and will be reviewed in two weeks.
- Parents encouraged to wear masks during drop off and collection time

In light of the current situation with Covid infections our risk assessment is updated weekly and our Seesaw on-line learning will be activated if children have to be educated at home.

Ventilation

We are still keeping windows open and as we move to through the colder autumn months please make sure the children have a school jumper to wear. The virus can still thrive indoors so our classrooms are well ventilated even if wet and cold outside so you might want to let your child wear a vest/extra t-shirt as an extra layer along with a cardigan/sweatshirt.

School Sports and Clubs

Football -In November St Mary's took part in the North Kirklees league at Batley Sports and Tennis Centre where we qualified for the finals. Unfortunately, the final had to be postponed but we are hoping for a new date this term. We are hoping to defend our trophy which we last won in 2019!

Board Games Club -



Mr Peacock has re-introduced Board games club this term where the children are learning about patience and strategy and session one was a great success!!

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 18th January 7pm - St Mary's Church, Batley. Year 6 Sacrament of Confirmation

Friday 18th February - school closes for half term break

Monday 28th February - school re-opens to pupils.

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

Thank you Mr Glover