



# St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 10 - 2021/22

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all enjoyed the Christmas break and that rest and relaxation were part of your holidays! The children have returned to school full of energy and have enjoyed coming back together again. We have several cases of Covid in school at present. If your child has been identified as a 'close contact' then you will have received notification and been advised to test your child daily using the LFD tests. These can be ordered online but it may require perseverance when ordering, I think I tried 9 times before I was able to place an order! The link for ordering LFD test kits is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Thank you for keeping us informed of your family circumstances relating to Covid. We are required to complete daily returns to the DfE with information regarding all Covid absence. Teachers will support with home learning where required and if you and your child are well enough to engage in this. Please contact your child's class teacher through Tapestry or Class DoJo if you require support with home learning during periods of isolation.

During these times of rising Covid cases we have four key measures to reduce the risks for all in our school community. They are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed Covid cases.

In addition, staff are wearing face coverings in indoor communal areas and we are not gathering together for collective worship as a whole school at present in order to reduce risks for all. We await further guidance from Public Health Dorset regarding whole-school gatherings, as such, Class Assemblies planned for this month will not take place.

Please be aware that we also have higher than normal levels of staff absence due to Covid. Currently we are able to cover and I am very grateful to all staff who are working additional hours in order to keep our school running and the children happy and safe in their learning.

We have monitors to ensure correct levels of ventilation are provided in all classrooms. This means that during these winter months we are required to have open windows and doors.

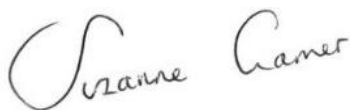


Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately to keep them warm. Layers of clothing are a good way of keeping warm in school so that children can be comfortable.

The flu vaccinations for all children will now take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Please ensure that you have given your consent online by 19<sup>th</sup> January as without this your child cannot be vaccinated on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January. The letter is attached which contains our school code.

There now follows further information.

Yours sincerely



### Reading Books

In her role as English Subject leader, Mrs Joslin has carried out a review of home reading books alongside the St Osmund's English Lead Teacher and other first school subject leaders. The home reading books have undergone a recent makeover. Thank you to Charminster Post Office and Stores for their generous donation of £400.00 from their Christmas Raffle which we have added to a previous donation from Charminster Parish Council in order to purchase some brand new books and update our reading scheme across the bands. This includes our older readers who may notice the difference more.

Our book bands have also altered slightly in order and colour and so older children may find themselves on a different band than they were before the Christmas holidays. The reason behind this is to reflect the same reading scheme as our feeder middle school, St Osmund's. By doing this we are hoping their reading journey will be smoother at the point of transition into Year 5. For older readers there are a wonderful choice of books for the children to choose from - something from everyone which I hope they will enjoy reading. Please contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Joslin if you would like any further information regarding book bands and the reading scheme.

### Eco Uniform

In order to reduce mixing and contact we plan to hold our next Eco Uniform sale on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February. However, if you are in need of uniform before then, please phone into our school office and Bev or Karen would be happy to find items for you.

### Future Dates:

21 Jan	Flu Vaccinations
1 Feb	M & M Productions - Aladdin Pantomime
8 Feb	Safer Internet Day
18 Feb	Break -Up
21-25 Feb	Half Term
28 Feb	Staff Training Day
1 Mar	Children return to school
3 Mar	World Book Day
7-11 Mar	Parent/Teacher Consultations
10 Mar	Individual and Sibling Photographs



