

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 1: 14th September 2020

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk

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@EMCPrimary



Welcome back everyone to our 'new normal' school year.

We are thrilled to have all the children back at school and it has been lovely to see the children after lockdown and the summer holidays. We have missed the school sounds – children laughing, learning and playing. It's great to be back! Thank you for your patience during these unprecedented times.

Social distancing – Government guidelines

The rate of infection in Rugby continues to rise: 33 cases per 100,000; 36 cases in the last week which is an increase of 28 over the previous week (Data collected 12.09.20)

Due to rising case numbers, we are asking all parents to keep a social distance of 2 metres between families and for extra precautions: please endeavour to wear face masks on the school drive.

Thank you for your understanding.

School Mass

After a meeting with Father Gerry and Father Matthew regarding school Mass and the sacraments which will take place this academic year, we have decided that school Mass celebrations can take place in the school hall but only one bubble can attend. We have followed guidance from the Government and Birmingham Diocesan Education Service which states that parents and members of the school community must not attend. A risk assessment has been drawn up following guidance from BDES and Government guidelines. We will start school Mass celebrations in October on the following dates:

Thursday 1 st October – Year 5	Thursday 19 th November – Year 6
Thursday 8 th October – Year 6	Thursday 26 th November – Year 5
Thursday 15 th October – Year 4	Thursday 3 rd December – Year 4
Thursday 22 nd October - Year 3	Thursday 10 th December – Year 3
Thursday 5 th November - Year 2	
Thursday 12 th November – Year 1 and Reception	

We have set dates for the sacraments to take place but please be aware that these dates can change depending on the circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

Sacramental dates:

- Year 6 Confirmation – Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 7pm
- Year 3 Reconciliation – Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 6.30pm
- Year 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 12th June am (Time to be confirmed)
- Year 3 First Holy Communion - Saturday 12th June pm (Time to be confirmed)

Dinner Money

The school has introduced a new dinner system within school. As usual parents are requested to pay for dinner money in advance and with the exact monies. Under the new system if parents pay more than they owe for dinners, any change will be credited to their account and no money will be given back as change. It is anticipated that from the end of September all payments within school will be through an online SIMS Pay system and the school will become cashless. More information will follow about this in due course. There will be somebody on duty with a purple box so that any payments can be put into this box.

Weekly dinner money must be paid for in advance on a Monday morning. Half termly dinner period must be paid on the first day of the new term.

Dinner Money Costs:

- £2.50 a day
- £12.50 for a 5 day week

Cheques payable to: **WCC – English Martyrs Catholic Primary**

Safeguarding Statement

'Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 175 for maintained schools/Section 157 for academies/free/independent schools), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer and discuss the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care if that is considered necessary. **This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm or cause undue delay.** The school will seek advice from Children's Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later found to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead carries out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acts in the best interests of all children.

The designated safeguarding leads for English Martyrs School are Miss Petras and Mr Bromage.

Meet the teacher: Parent Meetings

As you may already be aware, the meetings that usually take place with parents are unable to take place. Instead, we have created "Loom" videos for parents. These are links that were attached to a word document. Some parents have had difficulty accessing these on their phones. Please use a PC or laptop to access the videos if you do experience problems. The best way to open the link is to right click the link then select 'open hyperlink'. During the video, teachers will share with parents what their expectations are from the children in that year group and what the children will be covering in class. They will also explain how children are assessed in school.

Please email the teachers if you have any questions.

Changes during lunchtime

At the start of the new academic year the school has staggered the children's lunchtimes so that we remain socially distanced from other year group bubbles.

We have decided that Reception and Year 1, who are classed as one bubble, will have their dinners in the school hall. The rest of the school will continue to eat their lunches in the classroom. Staff are monitoring these changes to ensure that lunch times run smoothly.

Pupil Premium

Schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives £1320 for each of these children.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of £2300.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. They are awarded £300.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children in KS2 whose families have a net income of £7400 or under, effective from 1 April 2018. If your child was previously entitled to free school meals but is no longer, they will still receive pupil premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a pupil who has ever had free school meals in the past six years).

Prior to April 2018, children qualified for free school meals – and accordingly pupil premium – if you received any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance

- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called **Universal Credit**. From April 2018, free school meals and pupil premium will only be allocated to pupils with a family income under £7400 (net) per year.

School's spend this pupil premium based on what they feel are the needs of the children and schools can vary widely on how this is spent.

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for free school meals, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium. **If your child would qualify for free school meals, even if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 it is important that you register and claim free school meal via the Warwickshire website. The school does not automatically receive this money and it is the only means schools have to receive the additional funding.**

PTFA Meeting- Monday 28th September 8pm



It would be lovely to see as many parents attend a virtual PTFA Meeting on Zoom. We have a very committed group of parents and grandparents who support the school and its activities and without whom we would struggle to provide the range of activities and social events. Many of these members have older children who will be leaving the school so we desperately need new families to come along and join the PTFA for the benefit of our school pupils and ultimately the pupils.

New kitchen at English Martyrs Church hall

English Martyrs Church hall is now available for hire.

It has been refurbished over the holidays and now boasts a newly fitted kitchen and toilets with baby changing facilities. Perfect for parties or meetings. To book please contact Caroline DEERY on 07768171146 or Caroline.Deery@btinternet.com



Diary Dates

Please note that there are some dates that will need to be confirmed due to Covid-19. Please bear with us while we await updates on guidelines for these events to take place.

September

1 st	Teacher Training Day
4 th	Relationship and Health Education (RHE) consultation tool sent out to parents
10 th	Curriculum Meeting videos sent out
11 th	End of consultation for (RHE) 'Life to the Full' to end
11 th	Reading book to be sent home
14 th	Basketball session 1 morning club to start 8am.
15 th	School photographs
17 th	Irish dancing to start (no new members)
18 th	Basketball session 2 morning club to start 8am.
18 th	Reading Bears to go home (to start in KS1)
22 nd	Yoga after school club to start.
28 th	PTFA meeting via Zoom

October

1 st	Foundation Stage/Year 1/Year 2 Parent Phonic 'Loom' videos be sent
1 st	World Poetry Day celebrations at school
1 st	Year 5 mass in the school hall
8 th	Year 6 mass in the school hall
13 th	Flu Vaccinations
13 th	Parent Consultation TO BE CONFIRMED
15 th	Year 4 mass in the school hall
15 th	Parent Consultation TO BE CONFIRMED
22 nd	Year 3 mass in the school hall
25 th	Teacher Training Day – School Closed to Pupils

HALF TERM 26th OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 30th October

November

5 th	Year 2 Mass in the school hall
12 th	Year 1 and Reception Mass in the school hall
19 th	Year 6 mass in the school hall
16 th to 20 th	Anti-Bulling week
26 th	Year 5 mass in the school hall

December

3 rd	Year 4 mass in the school hall
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10th Year 3 mass in the school hall
14th Y2 to Y6 Beauty and the Beast Pantomine at the Belgrade **TBC**
16th Reception and KS1 Christmas party **TBC**

17th Christmas Party KS2 **TBC**
18th 9:30am Carol Service/End of term presentations **TBC**

January

4th Teacher Training Day

June

30th to 2nd Beaumanor Hall Residential for Year 5

School Improvement Suggestion

As a school we are always striving to improve, a good school listens to suggestions and opinions which can often lead to school improvement and positive change. If you have any suggestions you wish to share with the school, please fill the slip in below and hand it in to the school office or in the white letterbox in reception. Parents can also visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the parent view questionnaire.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

