

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 6: 14th January 2022

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@EMCPrimary

Welcome back to school Spring Term 2022

This newsletter is full of exciting news about our forthcoming events this term.

We warmly welcome our new teachers who joined our school in January.

			
Miss P Nleya Year 1 teacher Full-time teacher	Mr C Myatt Year 2 job share teacher (Thursday and Friday)	Mr R Watson Year 6 teacher (Monday to Thursday)	Miss L Yates intervention teacher across all year groups and Year 6 teacher (Friday)

We wish them the best in our school and working with us in our team.

Operating in bubbles

As we return to school, we continue to operate in bubbles to keep everyone safe in our school community. This means that teaching staff come out at 8.45am and children line up in their classes. Parents are not allowed through the gate in the morning. Reception and Year 1 continue to operate as one bubble and they are dropped off in the back playground. Children do not mix on the playground in the morning. Our breaktimes are staggered along with our lunches. Staff wear facemasks when they are in enclosed spaces and in the corridors. At 3.30pm, children leave in an orderly fashion, one class at a time to avoid classes mixing with each other. Parents are allowed on the playground to collect their children.



This newsletter is full of exciting news about the forthcoming PTFA events and our preparations for the forthcoming term.

Film night



4th February - Rescheduled Film Night for Year 5 and 6. The children in Year 5 and 6 have been asked to choose the film.

4th March – Year 3 and 4 Film Night

Non-Uniform Days

11th February – Non-Uniform Day £1 donation

9th March – Pyjama Day £1 donation



Cake sale and School “Be Loved” uniform sale



Our “Be-Loved” uniform sale and cake sale was a great success which raised £256.15. We are holding the event again on Friday 11th March. Please bring in cakes which will be sold at breaktime and then the rest of the cakes will go out on sale after school. Each cake will cost 50p. Please bring exact coins as there will be no or little change given.



Social media PTFA

Look out for our Twitter and Facebook pages where you can find out more information. Please see the links below:

Twitter: @EMCP_PTFA

https://twitter.com/EMCP_PTFA

Facebook: @EMCP.PTFA

<https://www.facebook.com/EMCP.PTFA/>

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation meetings will take place on Tuesday 22nd March and Thursday 24th March from 3.40pm to 7pm. Our meetings will remain virtual using Teachers 2 Parents (Eduspot).

Bed time Stories for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2



To celebrate World Book Day on 3rd March, Reception and KS1 classes will be invited to an after-school Bed Time story free event. The event will take place in school starting at 5.15pm and finishing at 6.15pm. Parents do not need to stay for this hour. The children will be read a bedtime story and then after will be served hot chocolate and a biscuit. More details to follow.

Caretaker Vacancy at English Marytrs

An advertisement has now gone out for our Caretaker vacancy on WMJobs. Band D salary, 25hours a week, split shifts 7am to 9am and then 3pm to 6pm. We look forward to receiving applications. You can also contact the school office for an application form if you or anyone you know are interested.

Book Swap is Back!

Before Lockdown in March 2020, there was a designated area in the Foyer in reception for children to bring in good condition books and swap them for other books on the display stand. We are reintroducing this to encourage children to develop a love of reading. The books are free to take and can be returned whenever they want. It is set up on a trust basis and there is no monitoring of books that children take home or bring back.



English Martyrs Library



We are delighted to announce that the school library will be open to pupils from next week. This is a brand-new room, stocked with a wide range of beautiful new books. Miss McCallum is our school librarian and will be helping the children when choosing books. Each child will get to visit the library and take home a book every week. Please support us with reading the book with your child at home and returning it to school on their designated library day. We will let you know your child's library day as soon as we have finalised the timetable.

First Holy Communion Year 3

Year 3 are preparing in school to receive their sacrament of First Holy Communion. I have met with Father Gerry and have confirmed the following dates:

Year 3 Parent Meeting – Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 6.30pm in school

Enrolment mass – Sunday 13th February 2022 at English Martyrs Church 11am Mass

Reconciliation Service – Wednesday 9th March at 6.30pm at English Martyrs Church

First Holy Communion – Saturday 11th June at 11am at English Martyrs Church

Family Information Service



Mrs Copson sends out a newsletter from the Family Information Service. It is packed full of helpful information for families. This week Newsletter. Please take time to read the latest newsletter.

Covid-19 updates

The government has changed their guidelines in preparation for 17th January 2022. We are briefed by Public Health English (PHE). They act on behalf of the government to take the national guidance and adjust it in reaction to local outbreaks. These could be county focused, area focused (i.e. Rugby) or individualised for schools. As such, please be aware that some of this guidance may vary slightly from that which is presented nationally. This is the latest guidance for parents for our school setting which may differ from National :

<p>If a pupil is a close contact of a positive case within school</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>If a pupil has a positive case within their household</p>	<p>Pupils are advised to take LFD tests every day, for 7 days, but can continue to attend school if they do not have one of the three main symptoms.</p> <p>Pupils should take the LFD test before school each day, preferably before eating/drinking or at least half an hour after eating/drinking. If they test positive, they must follow the isolation rules*.</p>
<p>If a pupil feels unwell with symptoms that are not COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. cold like symptoms)</p>	<p>Pupils are strongly advised to take an LFD and can still attend school if negative. If positive, they must follow the isolation rules*.</p>
<p>If a pupil has one of the COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, loss of taste/smell or new or continuous cough)</p>	<p>They MUST have a PCR test, however if they have already taken an LFD and this is positive, they do not need to take a PCR, you can accept the LFD test result.</p> <p>If the PCR or LFD is positive, they must follow the isolation rules*.</p> <p>If the LFD is negative, they must isolate and have a PCR to confirm because they have symptoms. If the PCR is negative, they can return to school.</p>

* isolation has now changed to 5 full days (with effect from 17th January those isolating with have the option to reduce their isolation to 5 full days) with a return on the 6th day. Test on day 5 and day 6 (24 hours apart). Two consecutive negative tests means a return to school after the test on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#). Any positive test result will mean a restart to the daily LFD, until two consecutive days of negative tests are achieved, or until a 10 day isolation period has taken place whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Running Club Updates

Running club at lunchtime is well underway with Mrs O'Malley. There are four running events coming up and a team will be selected. Once the team is selected then she will arrange some running out of the school grounds. Information will be out soon.

Forthcoming Cross country events after school:

7th February – Binley Woods

16th February – Hart Field

2nd March Revel

12th March - TBC



Online Safety

In our last newsletter on 17th December, I sent out information about logins for parents to access the National Online Safety.

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account. You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/english-martyrs-catholic-primary-school-5>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the "Online Safety for Parents and Carers' course and National Online Safety's Resources (which includes 50+ online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games).

This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

Our suggestions would be : ALL parents complete - Annual Certificate in Cyber Security for Parents and Carers EYFS and Key Stage One parents complete – **Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 3-7** Key Stage Two parents complete- **Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 7-11**

We hope you will agree that this is a really important issue that we need to work together to develop and would appreciate your comments and feedback about the resource once you have signed up.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com or come and speak to a member of staff who will do their best to support you.

In this newsletter I have included "**What Parents and carers need to know about SnapChat**". Please take time to read the information as we are very aware that children can be vulnerable when online with social media.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as WhatsApp and Instagram have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is a senior safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and worked on research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Diary Dates

January

5 th	Children Back to school for the Spring Term
6 th	11am Epiphany Mass Year 4 and Year 1
10 th	PTFA meeting at Ex Service Man's Club 8pm
13 th	11am Confirmation Enrolment Mass Year 6 and Year 3 attend
18 th	Reception Parents Early Reading Meeting and reading for pleasure
18 th	Year 6 Peer Mediation in house training missed from Year 5
27 th	Mass Y4/Y1
27th	Year 6 Confirmation Mass

February

4 th	Film night Year 5 and 6 rescheduled PTFA event
10 th	Mass Y6/Y3/Reception
11 th	Non-Uniform Day - £1 donations
13 th	Enrolment Mass Year 3 First Holy Communion candidates
17 th	Mass Y4/1
18 th	Theatre visit Year 2 to 6 Belgrade Theatre "Billionaire Boy"

Half-Term February 21st to 25th February

March

3 rd	No Mass – Father Gerry unavailable
4 th	Film Night Year 3 and 4
9 th	Non-Uniform PYJAMA DAY
9 th	Year 3 Reconciliation Service at 6.30pm English Martyrs Church
10 th	Mass Y6/Y3 and Reception
11 th	Cake Sale and "Be Loved" Uniform Sale (50p per cake, no change)
17 th	Mass Y5/Y2 mass
22 nd & 24 th	3.40pm to 7pm Parent Consultations (virtual event)
24 th	Mass Y4/Y1
31 st	No Mass – Father Gerry unavailable

April

7 th	Whole School Mass Led by Year 5 (alternatively Y5/Y2 mass)
8 th	Easter Presentation led by Year 4 and supported by Year 3 followed by End of Term Presentations

Easter Break 11th April to 22nd April Children return to school on 25th April

June

29th to 1st

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: _____

