

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 7: 28th January 2022

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Academy News



In June 2021, the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley wrote requesting every Catholic Voluntary Aided school under the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham joined a multi academy company of Catholic Schools by September 2022 or were to be in the process of doing so. In a recent meeting the Governing Body of English Martyrs Catholic Primary School voted in favour of initiating the consultation with our key stakeholders and submitting an application for an academy order to convert the school to and academy and join the Our Lady of the Magnificat Catholic Multi-Academy Company. An Academy order

would confirm whether the Department for Education (DfE) was in principle supportive.

The governing body are considering joining the Magnificat Catholic Multi-Academy Company. We are now in the consultation period which is open from Monday, 31st January 2022 – Friday 25th February. Consultation will last for four weeks concluding on the 25th February 2022, so that everyone has time to consider the issues properly and, if they wish, to express their views using any of the following methods:

- Responding using the online form available from the school's website
- Emailing the school office, please mark the subject as 'Academy consultation'
- Writing a letter to the school marked Academy consultation.

Please go to our school website for further information on our Academy Consultation.

A meeting will be held for parents and carers on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 6:30pm. We ask that questions are submitted prior to the meeting by 5pm on Monday 7th February 2022 via the website which you can access on Monday 31st January 2022.

Resuming of normal school time

I have now decided to operate school as normal. This means that the school gates will be open from 8.45am. Please enter the school by the main gate. One teacher will be on duty from 8.45am in the playground. Parents and/or carers can enter the playground and will be responsible for their child/ren at this time. Please encourage your children not to use the school equipment. The bell will ring for beginning of school at **8.55am**.

Playtimes will go back to normal along with lunch times. Staff will continue to wear facemasks when they are in enclosed spaces and in the corridors to protect themselves from other adults.

School will finish at **3.30pm**, children leave in an orderly fashion, one class at a time. Parents are allowed on the playground to collect their children.

We are hoping that the numbers will not increase drastically when these measures are put in place. The cases in school will be monitored. If cases do rise, we will have to reconsider our measures going forward.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and Punctuality has been mandatory since the start of this academic year and we will be revising our focus on attendance and punctuality from this term. The school is always available to discuss any attendance concerns with parents.

Theatre Trip to Belgrade



This is just a reminder that the re-arranged Theatre Production from Monday 13th December 2021, will be taking place on Friday 18th February (am). The children from Year 2 - 6 will be going to watch "Billionaire Boy" at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. If you haven't already paid for this trip, please do so through the Pay360 app. A packed lunch is required, unless your child is in receipt of Free School Meals or is in Year 2 and you have previously notified us that you require a deli bag for this day.



A reminder for the forthcoming PTFA events:

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. They have chosen ET.

4th March – Year 3 and 4 Film Night

Non-Uniform Days

11th February – Non-Uniform Day £1 donation

9th March – Pyjama Day £1 donation



A reminder about 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.

Parking on the school drive

These past weeks, there have been great concerns over parking on the school drive and dangerous incidents. Parents are concerned and have asked what I am doing about this.

To date, this is the action taken:

- Miss Petras patrols the school drive when possible
- Notification has been given to the Neighbourhood Beat Manager regarding inconsiderate stopping and parking
- Shared the Ex-Service Men's Club parking permit registration forms via email. These are also available from Mrs Copson in the school office
- Miss Petras has distributed the Ex-Service Men's Club forms to people who are parking inconsiderately on the drive
- Miss Petras has told parents politely that there is no parking on the drive when she has caught them on it without a valid reason.
- We have sent emails when notified of incidents and have shared registration plates

If you have any concerns, please contact the school office and these will be passed to the Headteacher. **Please avoid taking matters into your own hands.**

Caretaker Vacancy at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

An advertisement is now out for our Caretaker vacancy on WMJobs. Band D salary, 25 hours 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 and Library!



Mrs Rouledge sent an email out this week about our new timetable for library time and the process for loaning books and returning them.



We have also reintroduced our Book Swap which can be found in the foyer. 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.

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.

Online Safety Information

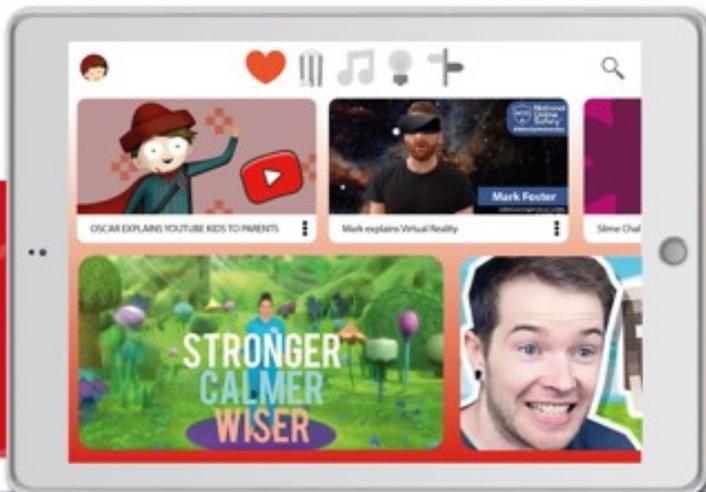
In this newsletter I have included "**What Parents and carers need to know about Youtube Kids**". Please take time to read the information as we are very aware that children can be vulnerable when online with social media.



Although children of all ages often watch YouTube content directly via the website or main YouTube app, YouTube itself states that the only place children should be watching its videos is in the YouTube Kids app.



8 things parents need to know about YOUTUBE KIDS



1 SETTING UP

To set up the YouTube Kids app you need to do the following:

- 1 - Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your YouTube account.
- 2 - Specify your child's Name, Age and Birth Month.
- 3 - Select the types of videos to include in the app based on their age or select them yourself.
- 4 - If you choose to Approve Content yourself, you will be presented with some sample videos to accept or reject. You can select collections, shows, music or learning.
- 5 - Once chosen you are ready to use the app.

2 USING THE APP

Based on how you have set it up your child can then use the app to explore a safe set of videos. It's worth noting that YouTube Kids uses algorithms to ensure safe videos rather than a personal check, so it's possible for videos to slip through. If an inappropriate video does appear you can select the menu in the top right to block and report it. This not only helps your child but also improves the YouTube Kids app as a whole.

3 ADVERTISEMENTS

It's worth remembering that even in YouTube Kids, children will still see adverts. These are marked as "Ad" and preceded by an ad intro. The types of advertisements and products are checked to follow YouTube's advertising policies which exclude things like food and beverages. However, there can be toys or other items included in videos directly by creators themselves to advertise them. You can remove adverts in YouTube Kids, like the main YouTube, by subscribing to YouTube Premium. This also has the added benefit that you can download videos for offline viewing, you can also watch videos in the background while using other apps. This can be really useful if you have a long journey to take children on.

As with television adverts or bus stop posters, it's a good idea to talk to children about how adverts work and help them to recognise them. In my family, I remember pointing out the grinning children, added sound and light effects and exciting narration in TV ads. It's important to do this for other forms of advertising as well. It's important to understand how YouTube Kids collects information about your child's viewing and how this relates to advertising and video content. When they watch a video, the device, language, which videos they watch and searches they make are recorded. This is used to help suggest personalized content. It can also be used to serve contextual advertising, although the app does not allow interest-based advertising or remarketing.

4 SELECTING GREAT CONTENT

One of the best features on YouTube Kids is the ability to select channels, videos or collections of videos for your child to enjoy. This is a great opportunity to sit with your child and better understand what they want to watch. Are there particular topics or themes that resonate? Then you can check through different options in this area, and together with them choose the best matching channels.

The YouTube Kids app also enables you to disable the Search feature to avoid young children stumbling upon content designed for older viewers. The app also avoids videos from inappropriate channels being suggested to watch next. If you have selected content for your child only those will come up. If you have set an age limit, only videos deemed appropriate for that age will be suggested.



5 VIEWING TIME

There are a number of ways you can administer how long a child can watch YouTube videos in a day. In the YouTube Kids app, you can set a timer before handing your child the smartphone or tablet. Once the time has run out the video will be paused.

You can also set limits on iPhones and iPads in the Screen Time section of the Settings. This not only enables you to see how long they play but specify how and when they can do this. You can apply similar limits on Android devices via the Family Link app settings. Other systems like the "Circle" system or features built into your Internet Router enable you to set limits across multiple devices which can be useful as children will often cruise to another smartphone, tablet or smart TV once their time has run out on their device.

As well as helping younger children not watch longer than is healthy, this is a good tool for discussion with older kids. Discuss together how long is appropriate to watch in a day and then agree on the limits. This ensures they see them as helpful rather than being policed.

6 RESTRICTIONS

As well as using the YouTube Kids app, you can also set up restrictions on other ways your family watches YouTube. Ensure you are logged in when using YouTube and turn on Restricted Mode in your User Profile. You can also set this at the bottom of the video page by clicking Restricted Mode: On. Ensure that you also click the Lock Restricted Mode on this browser to ensure so that other users can't turn it off.

7 WATCHING TOGETHER

Another good way to keep YouTube viewing positive is to spend time finding channels and content that your child will enjoy and benefit from. In my family, we each get together once a month and show each other our favourite videos from the last four weeks. This not only sparks conversations about what we've watched but enables us to share the things we've enjoyed watching.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

For younger children, you can use the YouTube Kids app to keep tabs on what they have been watching. Tap on the Recommended icon on the top of the home screen and then swipe right. You will see videos with the play button on them and a red bar at the bottom. These are the videos your child has watched. Anywhere the bar at the bottom is mostly black is a video your child has skipped.



Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His Taming Gaming book helps parents guide children to healthy play.



Diary Dates

January

27th **Year 6 Confirmation Mass**

February

4th Film night Year 5 and 6 rescheduled PTFA event
9th Parent academy consultation at 6.30pm
10th Mass Y6/Y3/Reception
11th Non-Uniform Day - £1 donations
13th Enrolment Mass Year 3 First Holy Communion candidates
17th Mass Y4/1
18th Theatre visit Year 2 to 6 Belgrade Theatre "Billionaire Boy"

Half-Term February 21st to 25th February

March

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

April

7th Whole School Mass Led by Year 5 (alternatively Y5/Y2 mass)
8th 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

11th Year 3 First Holy Communion Service 11am at English Martyrs Church
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: _____

