



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### Week beginning Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

#### Thought for the week: "Happy New Year"

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to everyone and thanks for all your cards and donations to the Christmas foodbank at the end of last term.

Our new term has begun with Birmingham being placed into Tier 4 with the highest level of restrictions. As a school, we have had to update our risk assessments in light of this and certain changes have been made to the day-to-day running of school as a result. A summary of these can be found below:

**PPE Equipment.** All staff have been issued with PPE and I have strongly recommended that they wear it at all times. If you would prefer your child/children to wear a mask in school please send them in with a mask, the choice is yours.

**End of Day Routines.** So far this year I have tried my utmost not to compromise the timings of the school day. However to try to reduce social contact I am going to introduce a staggered end of day departure. From today, Nursery and Reception will depart school at 2:30pm, Y1 and Y2 at 2:45pm and Y3 and Y4 at 3:00pm. These classes will all leave from their usual gates. Y5 and Y6 will continue to leave at 3:00pm at the front of school. Any older siblings will leave with their youngest brother or sister at the relevant time. **Please can I ask that once you have collected your child/children that you leave for home straight away thus avoiding any unnecessary contact with others. Your support with this would be much appreciated.**

**Contact with school.** Any contact with school has to be via the telephone only, this is not how I have ran school for the last 14 years but sadly it is a reality of the situation we all find ourselves in. Thank you again for your understanding with this matter.

**Swimming.** School had hoped to start swimming again this term but sadly, Tier 4 restrictions mean swimming baths are closed, this will have to be put on hold until further notice.

**Ventilation in school.** Across school as per the advice, windows are open to try to help with ventilation in the classrooms. Obviously at this time of year that makes the classrooms colder than they would normally be. If you want to send a fleece/extra jumper in it might be of some help, rather than have the children having to work in their coats.



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What the short and medium term holds for school remains to be seen. If and when things change, I will communicate this to you as soon as I possibly can. I have been asked umpteen times if the school is safe, the short answer to that is that I don't know. The number of new infections is at a record level, the "new variant" of the disease is affecting more people both young and old. All I can do with the help of the staff is to try our best to make it as safe as we possibly can. To that end, I want to thank all the staff for their help and incredible efforts both now and during the break.

As I write to you I have to inform you that numbers are very low across school. Some parents have made the decision not to send their child/children back. I want to reassure all those families that I fully understand and sympathise with your decision. I also have to inform everyone that currently school has 9 members of staff absent from school, if this situation worsens and staffing levels mean it is not safe to open to all year groups I will again communicate this as soon as I possibly can.

The situation is extremely fluid at the moment and how things will play out is anyone's guess. All I ask is for your continued support and patience in realising we are incredibly stretched and having to deal with things that are ultimately out of our control.

Finally a reminder that if anyone presents with any symptoms of Coronavirus they must get a test and self-isolate at home.

Many thanks for your continued help, support and patience.

Mr M Aldred    Headteacher.



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