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Friday 18th September 2020

St Margaret Mary's Letter:

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well as we move towards the weekend. I would like to take the opportunity to update you further on events around the school this week & provide some important information & reminders.

School Photographs: On Wednesday we were visited by John Hunt Photographers, who took the opportunity to 'capture' our children at the start of this new school year. Individual & family photographs were taken of the children. They all looked so smart in their uniforms. We have also arranged for them to re-visit us on Friday, to catch-up with some of our Nursery children who have only just started their transition & any children who were absent on the day. I look forward to sharing the photographs with you very soon.

Reading Books: As mentioned last week every child in Y1-Y6 has now been allocated an appropriate reading book. We are now well on the way with our timetables of listening to children read & changing books.

A reminder that now more than ever we require your support in helping your child with their reading & establishing routines of listening to them or ensuring quiet reading-time. Please ensure that all children read daily at home & that the book comes into **school each day**. We will change reading books on a **Tuesday & Friday**.

School Lunch Provision: This week, we trialled more children eating in the dining hall as part of their school lunch provision. With all of the safety measures in place this has not been easy & had to be a mix of eating in the classroom some days, alongside eating in the dining hall on others. As a result of this we have been able to expand our menu choices & give the children more hot-food options. All children & staff have worked superbly to allow this to happen. We will continue to extend this next week to ensure that the children have more hot-meals in the dining hall.

Adjusted Start & Finish Times: Once again I would like to thank-you for all the support you are providing in ensuring that the children arrive & are collected at the different times that we have requested. After trialling times over the first two weeks, my intention is to stick to these timings for the foreseeable future, to allow for consistency & familiarity for everyone.

Our observations & those of many parents who we have spoken to are that the mornings are very calm, ordered & proving to be a great success, with children arriving on time & moving into class.



In the evenings we are finding the transition a little busier & less calm on some occasions. Firstly, I understand & sympathise with the time pressures that you as parents are under. We have found that the difficulties are occurring when parents wait around the barrier areas & are not part of the queue or waiting from a distance, so that others can pass on the pavement. This creates a bottle-neck at the gate areas. Only by queuing, being aware of one-another & respectful can social distancing occur. I politely ask that you do not stand in these areas so that we can all allow for social distancing. In addition to this it is so important to arrive on-time & not be too early. Previously being early was a positive & I fully understand this. However with current ways of working, if for example you are a Y5-6 parent & you arrive too early in the queue, this means that you are ahead of the Y3-4 parents. As you will be aware the Y3-4 parents are the first to pick-up their children. When this happens staff cannot see the parents of the Y3-4 children who should be leaving first & this can cause delay & frustration for everyone. **Please arrive at the time allocated & not earlier.** I also ask that you avoid beckoning your child or other children to come to the gate to you. This is for obvious safeguarding reasons. I understand that the instinct is to communicate & gain attention, but as mentioned previously, staff will do their very best to spot you & safely ensure that every child leaves the playground as soon as is possible. There has also been less car-traffic at this end of St Margaret's Road since our return. Following parental suggestions we are also asking that parents, upon picking their child [ren] up cross the road safely wherever possible, to avoid congestion on the pavements & going back against the other queuing parents. By working together, being patient & respectful of one-another we will get it right & set the correct example for our children. Thank-you!

**Reminders –
Staggered Times & Entry Points**

Bubbles/Class	Where	Arrival Time	Finish Time
EYFS: Mrs Welch - Nur Miss Howells – Nur/Rec Miss McCauley - Rec	Large Double-Gated Playground Gate *One parent to walk their child along the sectioned part of the playground to the EYFS Building [left-side]	8:35-8:45 am Teaching starts 5 mins later	2:50-3:00 pm * Nursery children still transitioned
KS1: Miss Jackson - Y1 Miss McCreavy –Y1-2 Miss O'Regan –Y2	Large Double-Gated Playground Gate	8:45 –8:55am Teaching starts 5 mins later	3:00-3:10 pm
Lower KS2: Miss Kehoe - Y3 Miss Dobie - Y3-4 Miss Taylor- Y4	Main Entrance Gate	8:35 -8:45 am Teaching starts 5 mins later	2:50-3:00 pm
Upper KS2: Mrs Murphy - Y5 Miss Monan –Y5 Miss Ganley - Y6 Mr Clarke – Y6	Main Entrance Gate	8:45-8:55 am Teaching starts 5 mins later	3:00-3:10 pm

Reminders: Covid-19 Symptoms & Public Information:

Symptoms of Coronavirus in children are **any** of the following: See latest information below taken from NHS/Public Health England

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. [Usually a dry cough & not a productive/mucus-based one]
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal.

Sore throats & blocked or runny noses are not symptoms of coronavirus.

Partial School Closures: If there are confirmed positive tests for COVID-19 within our school community then we will follow the most up-to-date guidance available. This may mean that a class bubble or parts of the school will close for 14 days in-line with guidance. If your child, or anyone in your household, shows symptoms of Covid-19 it is really important that you follow the Health Guidance & do not send them into school. **This also includes siblings.** It is really important that we are all vigilant & that we follow the correct procedures. At all times we will support one-another & follow the experts & professional guidance from Public Health England so that our school can remain open.

Home Learning Survey: As some of you have already experienced, home learning is now becoming a new reality & way of continuing studies & schooling this year. When a child has had to self-isolate in the last few weeks & await a test, we have ensured that appropriate learning which fits in with what the children are covering in school is organised. This is via Seesaw, as well as the use of other resources.

I ask that you please take the time to complete the important Parent Survey on this, which will help us to shape our policy for Home Learning. It is really important that you comment on your experiences & perspective to help us ensure that every child receives high quality learning whether in school or out of school. Please click on the survey link below or go to the school website link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RZ3CF27>

I ask that you return the survey responses by **lunchtime Tuesday 22nd September.**

Election Excitement: Around the school pupil voice & representative elections are taking place next week. These are ranging from Head Girl & Head Boy, School Prefects, School Council & Reading Councils. I know that we have so many fantastic role-models across the school, who will make a difference & lead by example. I look forward to updating you on this next week.

Finally congratulations to all of our Star of the Week Certificate Winners. There has been some fantastic work & achievements throughout the year groups that have rightly been celebrated. Well done guys!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Take care & God Bless!

Mr Sutton
Headteacher

