



NEWSLETTER



St Mary's R C Primary School
Haslingden
Tel: 01706 214747
Headteacher: Miss D McNicoll



10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone has had a lovely summer holiday and a special 'Welcome' to our new parents, who are receiving this weekly newsletter for the first time today! The children seem to be really excited to be back and have quickly settled into their new classes. As well as our 20 new reception children, we also welcome Yousha Rahman and Lexi-Rae into our school family.

Bobby Roberts has also started a new school and we look forward to him visiting us to bid him farewell hopefully in a few weeks time.

We start the new term with some exciting news: Miss Hardman is expecting her second child and will commence her maternity leave after Christmas.

We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Marsden for this academic year! She will cover Miss Hardman's maternity leave from January.

Until then, during autumn term, Miss Marsden will be working alongside Miss Hall and Miss Hardman to teach maths and literacy every morning to the children in Key Stage 1 as part of our Covid Catch-Up funding recovery programme. The morning sessions will be organised as follows:

Reception will be taught by Miss Hall.

Year 1 will be taught by Miss Hardman.

Year 2 will be taught by Miss Marsden.

Covid guidance

Please find attached with this newsletter new Covid information for this academic year.

Parking

Just to inform new parents, we have a one way system to ease congestion each morning and after school! Please drive into Lime Road from Hillside Road and turn right at Meadows Avenue and right again at the end of Meadows Avenue to get back onto Hillside Road.

Parents are reminded not to park on the yellow zig-zags outside the school gates or to block driveways of any houses on the road local to the school.

The road works around school is making the parking even more difficult at the moment but we are hoping the work will be completed soon!

PE

Please ensure the children have their PE kits (including trainers) in school EVERY day as the children will be participating in lots of outdoor PE activities throughout the year as well



Healthy School

as their weekly 2 PE sessions (including the 'Daily Mile'). As the weather gets colder, they may also need a sweatshirt and some jogging pants.

If your child wears earrings, they need to not wear them on the days they have PE (or bring plasters from home to cover each ear during the session).

The black pumps the children wear inside (and for PE) can be purchased in school from the PTA for £4.00. If you would like to buy a pair, please send payment into school **any Friday morning**.

Primary and Secondary school places

It seems like we have just returned to school but already Lancashire have sent out information for parents to apply online for school places for children starting school in September 2022.

From 1st September, parents can apply for primary school places for September 2022. This year we will be having an open day on **Wednesday 6th October** but at reduced capacity so timed slots need to be booked in advance. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place.

In the meantime, please watch our wonderful informative film on our school Facebook page which gives prospective parents a brief idea of all the things our wonderful school has to offer!

Parents of children in year 6 can also apply online for their secondary school place. To do this, visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools (or telephone 01254 220718)

The closing dates for applications for September 2021 are-

Secondary: 31st October 2021

Primary: 15th January 2022

Class Photos

The photographer from will be in school next week on Thursday taking class photographs for the new academic year. The children will bring home a proof copy and an order form shortly afterwards.

Stars of the week

After today, our REACH awards will be given out each Monday instead of Friday as the KS1 children have Forest School on Fridays.

It was a delight this morning to see how happy all our winners were when they received their trophies today!

R	Luc Molloy
E	Lily Schofield-Rostron
A	Renee McVey
C	Theo Love
H	Anaya Kousar
Miss McNicoll's 5Ws award	Eddie Halliwell

Star Writer Award

Class 1: Nancy Martin

Class 2: William Gregory

Class 3: Joseph Fortune

Class 4: Veronica McVey

Class 5: Rufus McCann

Yours sincerely

Miss D McNicoll

Dear Parents/Guardian

We are writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

Some likely scenarios are described below along with our advice:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

Miss McNicoll
Headteacher