



Dear Parents and Carers

Wednesday 22 September 2021

Please see below this weeks' notices:

Celebrating Achievements

Huge congratulations to the following children who are the first to have received a Headteacher's Award for excellent work and/or demonstrated outstanding behaviour and attitude towards learning and returning to school this week: Esme, Ellie, Valerie H, Ibrahim I, Gaia M, Ayaan A, Joshua C, Sophia Z, Lola M-W, Cara W, Lorna L, Jude T and Willow H. Well done to you all. More congratulations are awarded to all of Class 12 for sharing their class Act of Worship with the whole school on 'Community'; a fantastic effort by all, especially the singing.

A special mention goes to Cillian McD and Bradley C for their achievements in swimming. Also, to Eugene L, Sam B, Bertie and Bessie B for taking part in a Gaelic football tournament where Sam achieved Player of the Week.

COVID-19

As we are now into the new academic year, it is still vital we continue do our very best to ensure we limit any possible risk of spread of coronavirus. The guidance states that children below 18 years and 6 months no longer have to isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, including family members. However, the advice is to still book a PCR test. As a school we are no longer responsible for Track and Trace and haven't been since July 19. However, if a child in school tests positive, we have been asked by the local authority to send the following message to our parents:

Your child may have had close contact with a positive COVID-19 case at school. Please do the right thing for Derby by taking the steps listed below:

- Visit the [Government website](#) or call 119 to get a free PCR test whether you have symptoms or not. You can book a test at a Local Testing Site or request a home testing kit.
- Isolate if you have symptoms or test positive and inform the school. If you have to isolate, the [Derby Community Hub](#) can provide support.
- Get fully vaccinated as soon as you can if you are eligible. You can book your vaccination on the [NHS website](#) or by calling 119.
- Keep washing your hands. At this time of year, common respiratory illnesses (coughs, colds and flu) are circulating and hand washing is a key way to stop these spreading.
- Consider limiting contact with people who are at [higher risk](#) of serious illness from COVID-19.
- Try to meet people from outside your household outdoors rather than indoors.

For more information, visit the [Derby City Council website](#).

Please note, if your child is asked to get a PCR test as a result of contact with a positive case they may continue to attend school until they get the result of their PCR back.

If your child displays either a high temperature, a new continuous cough or have a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, they must isolate and take a PCR as soon as possible. Pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR or Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test.

Please inform the school if any member of the household does test positive, as this will help to identify the origin of the spread.

Finally, last week, we received a visit from Environmental Health who were impressed with standards in our kitchen and we are pleased and proud to announce St. Mary's has maintained our 5* rating. Congratulations to Mr Stephen Johnson and all the catering team.



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy
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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Please feel free to contact us if you require anything in addition to the information above.
Best wishes and God Bless

The Leadership Team



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