



Thursday 20 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can we please send our sincere thanks to all our parents and carers for your support, cooperation and understanding regarding yesterday's school closure. Decisions like this are never taken lightly as we are overtly conscious of the inconvenience it causes the whole community. That said, it is at times like this when the St Mary's SPIRIT truly shines amongst staff, pupils and families.

Please see below this weeks' notices.

Catholic Life: Faith in Action

Last week, Class 13 shared a beautiful Act of Worship around the Baptism of the Lord, which incorporated their Gospel Value on Service. The children created and shared some beautiful prayers, readings and poems. Class 13 also attended mass this week in our Chapel.

To celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Ralph Sherwin, the Trust was due to present each academy a Romero Cross to display in school. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, staff here at school took part in the celebrations virtually, and therefore unable to receive the Romero Cross from the Trust in person. We are pleased to say we have now received the cross where it will be placed in our school.

Celebrating Achievements

Huge congratulations to the following children who received a Headteacher's Award for excellent work and/or demonstrated outstanding behaviour and attitude towards learning this week: Keilan M, Ayeza A, Romeo M, Beth G, Lily D, Louie S, Jordan R, Leo D, Ruoxi L, Amelia F, Noor-deen M and Shant'tantique H-W. Well done to you all. More congratulations are awarded to all of Class 13 for sharing their class Act of Worship.

A special mention goes to Hektor B for achieving Stage 5 in swimming; Louie S for swimming 5m; Maddie S who received 2 trophies at her dance school's Awards evening, one for being a runner up in ballet and the other for being runner up in Junior drama and finally to Holly S for her 2 awards – swimming and achieving a distinction in her entry level in performance for Music and Dramatic Art. Congratulations to you all.

COVID-19

Following the first week back after Christmas, we are starting to receive reports of positive LFTs. Many thanks to our parents and carers for ensuring tests are given to their child/ren when they start to appear unwell. It is vital we continue do our very best to ensure we limit any possible risk of spread of coronavirus, therefore we continue to ask our families to be extremely vigilant, especially at this time of year.

When to take a PCR

If your child displays any of these symptoms: a new, continuous cough, high temperature, loss or change to their sense of smell and/or taste, they must isolate straightaway and book a PCR test as soon as possible. If the result comes back positive, please inform the school the result.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



When to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT)

If your child displays any of these symptoms: sore throat, runny nose, fatigue (unusually tired) and other cold like symptoms, please ensure your child takes a LFT. If the LFT displays 2 red lines, it indicates your child has coronavirus and your child must then isolate for 10 days. Please note, in early stages of coronavirus, red lines can be quite faint. You do not have to follow this up with a PCR. Instead, the guidance states that you should isolate and on day 5 of the isolation period take another LFT.

To calculate this, day 0 is the day your child took the test. If this shows a negative result, you can take another LFT on day 6 providing ensuring it is taken 24 hours later. If this too is a negative result you are permitted to come out of isolation. If on day 6 the LFT shows a red line, faint or otherwise, you must continue with the full 10-day isolation period.

The guidance states that children below 18 years and 6 months do not have to isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, including family members. However, the advice is to take Lateral Flow Tests each day for 7 days and at any point during the seven days they test positive, they must isolate and follow the guidance above.

If any of our families are running low on LFTs, please contact the school office where we can distribute a maximum of 2 lateral flow tests to enable the child to retest on day 5&6. Please only contact the office if you need a LFT for your child.

Parent Survey

Thank you for the responses we have received so far. Your voice as parents and carers is important to us. Please follow the link below. The survey will stay open until Monday 24 January.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OFYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxabuJYOK1I9ZNuulKyIvkjsBUMkpQVFkzS0IUQkJNUdVDTktPREVXMks2WC4u>

As a Leadership and school, we take concerns from parents and carers seriously. If you have any issues or concerns you would like to share, please put these in an email to admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk where Mrs Pasha will be able to direct your concerns to the right person.

Dates for your Diary

Please see below a list of upcoming key dates for your diaries:

- Friday 18 February – Last day of term
- Monday 28 February – INSET
- Tuesday 1 March – Children return following half-term
- Friday 8 April – Last day of term
- Monday 25 April - School re-opens for the Pentecost Term
- Friday 27 May – Last day of term
- Monday 6 June – Children return following half-term
- Friday 1 July – INSET
- Friday 22 July – Last day of term

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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