



Wednesday 7 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome back to the new academic year, especially to our new families. The children have settled really well into their new classes and Phases. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces from children, staff and parents and carers. Thank you for providing your child/ren with the appropriate school uniform – they look so smart!

### **Equally Safe Programme**

This year we are working with EqualiTeach ([www.equaliteach.co.uk](http://www.equaliteach.co.uk)) as part of their Equally Safe Programme which has been funded by the Department for Education and has been designed to support schools to take a whole school approach to preventing and tackling bullying, with a specific focus on identity-based bullying. The programme will help us to:

- Ensure that our policies and procedures are robust and actively support anti-bullying work
- Have an increased understanding of how to promote equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the school curriculum and environment
- Increase confidence amongst staff and pupils in reporting prejudice-related incidents and identity-based bullying
- Increase pupil voice and pupils who are empowered to support their peers and develop their own anti-bullying initiatives
- Reduce incidents of bullying amongst staff and pupils
- Increase compliance with our duties under the Equality Act 2010, Education and Inspections Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and requirements for Ofsted.

We first shared the above with you last May as we believe our parents and carers play an important role of our school community. Thank you to the few parents who completed a short survey sent out in the Pentecost term. However, in order for the school to gauge a fuller understanding, we would like to extend the offer for all parents and carers the opportunity to have their opinions heard via a short questionnaire. The results of this will inform our action plans moving forward this academic year. Mrs Novak-Lemmings is due to meet a representative from Equaliteach to work on our school's next steps to ensure the children feel part of an equal, diverse and inclusive community. The questionnaire can be accessed using the following link;

<https://forms.office.com/r/SeRachbTEY>

Please ensure you select St. Mary's CVA, Derby from the drop-down menu on the first page. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey by Wednesday 14 September.

### **End of the Day Safeguarding**

If you collect your child from school at the end of the day, and would like to speak to your child's class teacher, we ask that you wait by the green sheds until the teachers have dismissed all pupils in their class. Please do not approach the class teachers; they will release all children into their parent's care before speaking to any parent or carer. Sometimes, your child's class teacher may wish to speak to you and will ask you to wait. If parents or carers are unable to wait, the class teacher will then make a phone call home having given families time to make it home.

### **Buses**

Any questions or queries relating to the school buses, please contact the school office ([admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk) / 01332 554831). Following feedback from our parents and carers, Mrs Novak-Lemmings will also make weekly visits to the bus stops. Mrs Andrews will continue to attend the bus stops and together they hope to ensure families who have opted for the bus service have a more regular opportunity to keep in contact and touch base with the Leadership Team as well as Mrs Andrews in her role as Pastoral Lead.



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Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



### **Homework**

For the month of September, the homework focus will be solely on reading and times-tables (number bonds for the children in FS). Can we ask our families to ensure their child/ren read at least 4 times a week and record this on their child's ClassDojo. Each time they read at home will earn them a Dojo point.

As well as regular reading, we ask parents to encourage their child/ren to learn the times-tables facts appropriate for their year group's curriculum. Please note, by the end of Year 4, the children are expected to know and recall fluently all the times tables up to 12x.

Having reviewed the homework policy last year which included staff and parental input, we will be introducing new English and Maths workbooks towards the end of this half term. More information around this will follow in due course.

### **Gentle Reminders**

In our bid to ensure fewer items end up in lost property, please ensure all uniform is labelled with your child's name. Book bags are available to purchase through the school office if needed. Lunch boxes/bags should be used for packed lunches which are placed in the cupboards just outside your child's classroom. Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school and we ask for these to be filled with water – juice is for lunch time!

### **Dates for your Diary**

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

- Friday 21 October – Last day of term
- Monday 31 October – Children return following half-term
- Friday 2 December – INSET (3/6)
- Thursday 22 December – Last day of term
- Monday 9 January – Children return following the Christmas break
- Thursday 16 February – Last day of term
- Friday 17 February – INSET (4/6)
- Monday 27 February - INSET (5/6)
- Tuesday 28 February – Children return after half-term
- Friday 31 March – Last day of term
- Monday 17 April – children return following the Easter break
- Monday 1 May – School closed due to BH
- Friday 26 May – Last day of term
- Monday 5 June – INSET (6/6)
- Tuesday 6 June – children return following half term
- Friday 21 July – Last day of term

Please feel free to contact us if you require anything in addition to the information above. Finally, please follow the link to view a message from the new CEO of our Trust – Mr Kevin Gritton.

<https://vimeo.com/742614729>

Best wishes and God Bless  
The Leadership Team



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