

St. George's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

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Dear parents

It's great to be back in school with no new major restrictions, following the last couple of year's disruption. We were holding our breath to see what the situation would be by the end of this week; luckily, nothing new is expected to come into play for education settings.

Staffing remains a real issue for schools and it's extremely difficult to replace staff as all supply agencies are experiencing such high demand. We are doing well and holding up very well in relation to other schools so hopefully the worst may be behind us. Obviously, new rules regarding Lateral flows and a shorter isolation period will support the return of staff back to the classroom.

NEW GOVERNMENT INFORMATION REGARDING ISOLATION PERIODS

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

To learn with kindness, respect and friendship through God's love

TREE & HEDGE PLANTING

Today, we had a lovely group of volunteers join some of our children to plant 250 new trees and hedge plants around the perimeter of the school. We have been working with Frank Sharp and The Woodland Trust to plant more trees in our grounds.



Our volunteers and children have planted hedging along the green fence on Old Hall Lane. This is designed to give more privacy to the children and obviously more greenery to enhance our outdoors. Today was step one; we have another 250 plants arriving in March to complete the hedging. Eventually, we'll have hedging as high as the fence along the length Old Hall Lane. We are looking forward to some new large trees arriving in the spring to provide shade and structure.



Huge thanks to everyone who came along to help – all our volunteers, the children, Miss Mawtus, Frank Sharp and the Woodland Trust!

DOUGAL

Our children in Year 5 and 6 had an extra special treat this week. Dougal came for a visit to meet the children and hear them read their books; they also got a chance to do some tricks!



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Dougal is a year old Cockapoo and has almost completed the necessary training to become a PAT dog (therapy dog). He flew through his bronze award and is due to complete his silver award in February. Once passed, he'll be a fully-fledged therapy dog and able to come into school more regularly to support our children. He was a sensational hit and all the children have loved spending a little bit of time with him. We hope to see much more of him in the future and we are keeping everything crossed for his test in February.

Dougal has been through rigorous training and is allowed to meet with children after we have parental permission. Part of the process is teaching children how to behave around dogs. Dougal is allowed onto the school grounds with our permission but we must stress that other dogs must not be brought onto the school grounds.

ATTENDANCE

Next week, some parents will be receiving letters regarding their child's attendance over the last term. Letters will be accompanied by children's attendance records and also highlight the number of late marks. ***The DFE expect ALL children have at least 96% attendance at school and children who have less than 90% are classed as persistently absent!***

We started the year in September so well with children arriving promptly for school. However, punctuality has started to slip and more children are arriving late, missing vital work at the start of the day. Can we please remind all parents that children should arrive at school **BEFORE their start time**. Once doors are locked, children will need to enter through the reception and will be marked late.

UNIFORM

Since we have returned after Christmas, some elements of uniform are slipping. ALL children need to wear **black school shoes...boots are not suitable or permitted** uniform items. Children should only be coming to school in their trainers on their specified PE days. Thank you for your cooperation.

ROBINWOOD REMINDER (YEAR 6)

Just a little reminder that payments for the Year 6 residential were due in December and January, if you wish to spread your payments before the final balance is due on 7th March 2022. Please send in payments in envelopes clearly marked with your child's name and the enclosed amount. Thanks you.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.



Mr P. Chapman
Headteacher