



*The Christus Catholic Trust*

Working in partnership for the benefit of the children and communities we serve

## **St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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Respect Ourselves, Respect  
Others, Respect our School,  
Love God

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We still have a few weeks to go before we come to the end of a long and eventful term but I thought I would update you with some news:

### **Farewell**

We say farewell and good luck to Ms. North who is leaving us at Christmas and congratulations on her promotion. We thank her for all her work with us in the past two years. Year 4 will now be taught by Ms. Maynard, who already works in our school and Mrs McBrown our Deputy Head will be our new SENCo. Reception class will be taught by Ms. England, who has been working alongside Mrs McBrown for some time now.

### **Masks**

In our endeavour to ensure that we have no cases of Covid in school, may I ask all Parents/Carers who collect and drop off children to wear a mask or a face covering whilst at the school gates?

As you know, Parents/Carers do not come on site but even with staggered starts and end times, there can be times when adults are standing close together and are not the recommended two metres distance from each other.

As I want to do everything that I can to ensure that no one including my staff gets ill, your wearing a mask or a face covering would really help us all.

Thank you for your support.

### **Clubs**

From January, Sports clubs will be starting. Please refer to the separate letter we will be sending home at the end of this week.

### **Christmas cards**

I know that it is usual practice for the children to send cards to each other at Christmas but obviously this year is rather different. However, I realize that the changes we have had to make to keep everyone safe, have been a challenge for some children. Therefore, should a child have a desperate need to bring in Christmas cards they should be ONLY for children in their year group and no other. The cards are to be brought in on Mondays only and will be given out in the class on Fridays.

Cards brought in on any other day will not be accepted.

### **Christmas Dinner**

A reminder that we will have our Christmas dinner on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December when children may wear their Christmas jumpers.



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### Considerate Parking

A reminder that it is **an offence to park or drive on the pavement**. I have witnessed some dangerous incidents when cars have mounted the pavement and come very close to hitting pedestrians.

I am in contact with Thurrock Council about putting in a railing outside school to prevent this happening.

I would ask parents of particularly large cars, to not try to park in spaces that are too small for their vehicle, to not stop in the middle of the Highway to let their children out of the car thereby blocking the traffic and to not park across parking entrances such as that of the flats across the road from the school.

Thank you

### COVID update

From December 2<sup>nd</sup>, many areas of the country including Thurrock, Southend and Essex will be in Tier two which is **High alert**. This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place.

The rules in Tier 2 are:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a [COVID-Secure](#) manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
  - provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
  - close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt)
  - stop taking orders after 10pm
- hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm
- public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows) is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- public attendance at spectator sport and business events can resume inside and outside, subject to [social contact rules](#) and limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees – 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend



funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stone settings.

- organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue
- organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with). There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- if you live in a tier 2 area, you must continue to follow tier 2 rules when you travel to a tier 1 area. Avoid travel to or overnight stays in tier 3 areas other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through a tier 3 area as a part of a longer journey
- for international travel see the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [travel advice](#) for your destination and the [travel corridors list](#)

Best wishes



M Jones  
Headteacher