



BREDBURY ST. MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start by thanking you all for being so supportive of the new safety measures that are in place due to COVID. As a result of this, we have welcomed your children back safely and hit the ground running where their learning is concerned. I understand that the one way system can feel frustrating especially for those who have to do a few laps but it really is an essential part of the risk assessment to keep your children, yourselves and the staff safe. Just think of the steps you'll do!!!! We appreciate that at times you will forget so please don't be upset if we politely remind you to walk back. We will continue to tweak things as we see ways we can improve but these will always be communicated to you.

I also want to thank you for your commitment to your children attending school. Attendance has not been a strength of Bredbury St Marks in the past and before lockdown, we were starting to make real progress with improving it. Since school fully re-opened our attendance has been around 92.5% which considering we are having to monitor COVID symptoms rigorously this is quite positive compared to a lot of schools. Remember the best way you can help is by contacting us immediately if your child will not be in and most importantly tell us why. If they have symptoms we will ask you to take them for a test. This allows us to protect the rest of the children in the class and make quick decisions where necessary. I have been over-whelmed with how supportive you have been with this – especially considering how it is virtually impossible to book a local test!!! So far Bradford was the furthest that one parent was given! Madness!

My favourite part of the day is welcoming yourselves and the children each morning. It absolutely sets me up for the day seeing the smiling faces. Remember if there is anything you want to have a chat about during these times we are there to listen. Mrs Alexander and Mrs Quinn are always on hand as well. If I am not around Miss Moore or Mrs Spreckley will be there.

Below you will find some updates about school life. These newsletters seem to be getting longer and longer so I am hoping to start a weekly update over the next few weeks.

Uniform

After the summer holiday nightmare with uniforms where I thought we'd be lucky to have any children in full uniform I have been totally blown away by how fabulous all the children look. The staff felt quite emotional when they first saw the children and I really feel that the children feel so proud to wear them. We have had a number of comments from people not linked to the school saying how smart the children look. We are monitoring uniform daily and having conversations with anyone not wearing the correct uniform. This is particularly the case where black trainers are not being worn. You asked for the uniform to be stricter in terms of expectations and we have listened.



Curriculum

Over the Summer we worked on introducing a new curriculum. At the moment the focus is on catching the children up after being out of school but we have developed the Bredbury St Marks 50 experiences. These are 50 experiences that all children will do whilst at our school from Nursery up to Year 6. More information will follow but here is a sneak preview of examples:



- Spend the night star gazing
- Visit a museum
- Climb a mountain
- Attend a live music event
- Get a piece of work published
- Get dirty splashing in puddles

Accessories

Just a reminder that jewellery must not be worn. This includes necklaces and rings. Watches are absolutely fine. Also we are seeing an increase in nail varnish. Please save this as a weekend treat.



Residentials

Due to COVID we are unable to book any residentials yet as the risk is just too high. Miss Harris our School Business Manager is currently returning deposits from trips that were planned before we went into lockdown. The delay has been due to having to wait for the insurance claim to go through. Thank you for your understanding and fingers crossed we will have some overnight trips booked soon.



Parents Evening

Parent's evening is booked for Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October. Due to schools being strongly advised not to have additional people on site this will be a phone call from your child's class teacher. The booking system will remain the same where you book a slot online. The only difference is that it will not be face to face.

We are very persistent and feel it is essential that we speak with you all so we will keep trying. How could you not want to talk about your child? More information to follow.



New rules on gatherings

Social distancing for adults remains very important so please ensure you do this on the school premises and at the school gates. Just for clarity – children are not expected to socially distance in the classroom but they are sat side by side and are not to touch.

Hand washing remains a regular event throughout the school day.

The rule of 6 comes in to play this week. So no more than 6 can be together indoors or outdoors. Schools are not part of this but as adults we must adhere to it on school premises. Please help us here. Stockport is being very closely monitored due to an increase in cases. It is essential we all do our bit to keep schools open. ***The only ones to miss out will be the children if we've been selfish.***



Our next steps

As you know we are on a journey of improvement to ensure we give your children the best possible start in life. We have just purchased a new phonics scheme that is being used in EYFS and KS1. We want to get children reading earlier and more confidently. In KS2 we have bought an online reading programme called 'Reading Plus'. We trialled it last year and saw some excellent results so we have bought it for every class. The best bit is that you can access it from home. The children are always trying to beat their own scores and move up so it really helps with motivation.



Building Project

We had hoped that over the Summer our building project would have started but COVID put a stop to it. We met with the contractors last week and we are hoping the work should start in the next few weeks. This will be the essential roof repairs and then the replacement windows. At the moment we don't think this will impact on our one way system / staggered starts and finishes but I'll keep you updated.



Water bottles

At the moment the children can't access our water fountains as this involves close contact and potential spread of germs so these have been closed off. Therefore it is essential that all children have a water bottle so they can have access to water throughout the day. The next couple of days are going to be warm so even more important. Please remember sun cream as well. I didn't think I'd be saying that in



Baby news!

Mrs Bebbington has had a beautiful baby girl. She has named her 'Norah Alice Bebbington.' Both mummy and baby are doing really well and we have sent them love and virtual snuggles from the Bredbury St Marks family.



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As always please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way. Mrs Halfpenny in the office is always happy to help and knows the answers to pretty much everything!
Our email is: admin@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk.

Thank you again for playing your part in the successful start to the new school year. Onwards and upwards!

Kind Regards

E Harding
Emma Harding
Acting Headteacher