

St. Mary's CE Primary School

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TERM DATES School Year 2020-21

Spring Term

INSET Day:

Monday 4th January

First day of Term:

Tuesday 5th January

Half Term:

Monday 15th February to

Friday 19th February 2021

INSET Day:

Monday 22nd February

Last day of Term:

Wednesday 31st March

Summer Term

INSET Day:

Monday 19th April

First day of Term:

Tuesday 20th April

Bank Holiday:

Monday 3rd May 2021

Half Term:

Monday 31st May to

Friday 4th June

Last Day of Term:

Whole School Attendance 2020-21

Autumn 1	97.3%
02/11	98.6%
09/11	98.0%
16/11	98.6%
23/11	97.2%
30/11	98.8%
07/12	97.6%
14/12	96.7%
Total:	97.7%



Merry
Christmas

IN TOUCH

Friday 18th December 2020

Issue 572



VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish
MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith
VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

We have had several enquiries from parent/carers with children who have been asked to self-isolate. These queries, in particular, relate to the date of the end of self-isolation.

Each time we have a confirmed case in the school we liaise with Public Health England and risk assess the situation based on each individual positive case. The dates that families are given have been worked out based on that risk assessment. If you want to work out the day on which PHE are basing this period, count back ten days from the date you have been given.

PHE advice is that the period of self-isolation must be completed in its entirety. Anyone who is negative should not be taking an NHS test. **I have just spoken with PHE again and they have clarified that even if private tests are taken and come back negative—the period of self-isolation still needs to be completed.**

Each individual case is different and therefore the ten days isolation starts at different points depending on, for example, whether the positive case is displaying symptoms or if they are asymptomatic at the last point of contact.

I am in constant contact with other Head Teachers locally and want to reassure parent/carers that we are following the same procedures that other schools are following, namely risk assessing the case with PHE and then circulating the letters that we are given along with the last date of self-isolation as advised by PHE. I am dreadfully sorry that for some families the recent cases mean that some of them are now being asked to self-isolate over the Christmas period. I am very disappointed that we have got as far as this week, only to experience our first cases this close to Christmas and I am very sorry for the impact this is having on children and their families.

The Governing Board of St. Mary's has recently reviewed and made changes to our Admissions Policy for 2022-23 onwards. As per the national Admissions Code, the policy is now available to the public for a period of consultation. Please see the consultation document and new policy on the school website. The consultation documents have also been shared with other admissions authorities locally as well as through the Church Mouse. Copies have also been sent to the local authority and diocesan board.

Thank you all for the patience and support you have shown in helping us to navigate an ever changing landscape this term—it is greatly appreciated. I would like to wish you and your family a very peaceful and blessed Christmas from all of us here at St. Mary's and to thank you all for the many wishes, cards and gifts that you have given to the staff team here at St. Mary's—they are also hugely valued and appreciated.

There has been some speculation that the start of the Spring Term will be delayed. Our understanding is that this will affect secondary schools only, but should anything change then I will let you all know as soon as possible.

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions today. As a result of your giving in relation to Christmas hat day, we are sending £257.11 to the Glass Door homeless charity.

Please don't forget that Monday 4th January is an INSET day. So, we look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**. Let's hope 2021 is a huge improvement on 2020...

Until next year have a restful break,
Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

ONCE ST MARY'S, ALWAYS ST. MARY'S

For those of you who are following Henry Boulton's appearances on BBC 1's Song of Praise/Sunday Worship, you may be interested to know that Henry's last appearance before Christmas will come on 20th December 1.15pm on BBC1! I'm told he is singing with someone very well known. All will be revealed on the 20th...