

The Saint Raphael's News

w/c 25th October 2020 / 30th Sunday, Year A, Matthew 22:34-40

'Love your neighbour as yourself'



UPDATE ON WHOLE SCHOOL OPENING: It has been wonderful to have all our pupils back in school. As we approach the end of the first half term the children have made a great start to the new school year. They are showing positive attitudes and are working very hard. The children have adapted easily to the changes we have had to make in school and come in ready to learn and ready to fulfil the Gospel values at the heart of our school life every day.

We are very proud of how the whole community has come together at these challenging times. The 'bubbles' in classes and social distancing along with hand hygiene continue to operate in order to minimise risk. Our priority, as always, is the safety of the pupils, parents and staff and we appreciate your support throughout this process.

The latest version of the school Risk Assessment is published on the school website. When we return from the half term break the current routines will remain in place and we ask you to continue with the arrangements for drop off and collections ensuring you follow the procedures we have in place. In particular we ask that children remain with their parents at all times whilst waiting and maintain social distancing. A reminder of the procedures can be found [here](#). In addition helpful guidance on attendance during Covid can be found [here](#).

TEST AND TRACE: Although school will be closed during the holidays, should your child or a member of your family tests positive for Coronavirus please could you inform school so that we can ensure the safety of all our pupils. Please contact head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk during the half term holiday.



GREATER MANCHESTER 'VERY HIGH ALERT' LEVEL: From Friday 23rd October the Greater Manchester area will move the 'Very High Alert' Covid level. This will change the restrictions in our area, please see the end of this newsletter for an easy to understand guide to the changes and how these will impact upon all of us. Full guidance under the 'Very High Alert' level can be accessed [here](#).

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS: If you have been abroad to a country that is on the Government's list as requiring quarantine, please inform the school office and check the quarantine requirements which may be in place. Latest information can be found on the [Government Website](#).

CONTACT DETAILS: We have undertaken a data cleanse of the information held in school via an online questionnaire. If you have responded, thank you. If you have not yet had the opportunity to reply, we would be grateful that this is completed as soon as you are able to. In addition, if you have not been contacted please speak to the school office. In the current climate, it is of the utmost importance that we have the most up to date contact details for every child in school.

SCHOOL MASSES: Unfortunately, at the current time we will not be able to have School Masses. We will review the situation as soon as we are able to. Masses at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church have now resumed following the Diocesan guidelines. Please see the [Parish Website](#) for details.

CATHOLIC LIFE: It has been lovely to resume small assemblies where we look at the Gospel theme for that week. (2 classes at a time with social distancing) While we still cannot have our usual Praise Assembly please be assured that we are still celebrating the children's achievements with Mr Matthews and myself going around classes presenting Praise certificates and photos will be posted onto Seesaw or Tapestry. Also, if your child has any achievement from home that they wish to celebrate then they can bring this in to class on Friday's and the class can celebrate the children's many talents and achievements together. Similarly, birthdays will be celebrated in class. The worship leaders in Year 6 have done a wonderful job recording a collective worship on the theme of October the month of the Holy Rosary which can then be shown in all classes.

PARENTS' EVENINGS: We are please to be continuing with parents evening and this will take place by telephone appointments in November for all year groups. Parents have been invited to book a 5 minute appointment online, the class teacher will then contact the parent at that time to discuss how the children have settled back into full school opening and their progress and attainment so far.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: Thank you for your donations of cakes and money for the MacMillan Cake sale. We raised £200.00 for Macmillan! Thank you to Miss Taylor for organising this.

May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: The deadline for admissions for High School for our Year 6 children is fast approaching and falls during the half term holidays. Applications are via the Tameside Admissions portal. The deadline for admissions is the **31st October 2020**. All applications must be made online at [Tameside Admissions](#) and are managed by Tameside Council. Please ensure that you 'submit' your online application, this is the final stage of the online process.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Applications for Reception class places will open on 1st November 2020. Information has been emailed to all current Nursery parents regarding the online application process. Children in our Nursery must still apply for a reception class place via the TMBC portal.

HARVEST: We are all aware that this is a very difficult time for many families. If we are able to, we would still like as a school to hold our Harvest Food collection when the children bring in a tin or dried food which will then be taken to the Foodbank in Stalybridge. If you would like to donate, we will put a box at the school gate after half term allowing the children to put their item into the box on their way into school. Thank you for helping.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION: The new before and after school childcare is working well in school, the children who have attended have enjoyed the activities and provision in place and the staff leading the club have done a great job this half term. We still have places available and have made some changes to the club. It now opens at 8.00am and closes at 4.30pm, in addition whilst the sessions are charged at £4.00, there is a 25% reduction for siblings to £3.00 per session. More information and booking forms for Autumn Term 2 are available on the [School Website](#).

CLASS BUBBLE CLOSURE: As you are aware, we have had one class bubble closure in Year 6 in this half term. The children have done brilliantly with their home learning and have worked extremely hard posting their work and asking questions which Mr Matthews can reply to. Well done Year 6 we are very proud of you. Thank you also to parents and carers who have helped to facilitate this and for your positive comments about how the system is working. Please do get in touch if you think that there is anything that would make the home learning system even better as we are always looking to review our arrangements.

Obviously, whilst we hope that we will not need to close further class bubbles we must be prepared and therefore I do want to outline again to parents and carers the procedures that would be followed if such a closure becomes necessary;

- If a child or member of staff in your child's bubble receives a positive Covid test result we would contact every parent of a child in that bubble with a text message and a link to a letter advising parents of a closure to the bubble. This will outline the dates of the isolation period for the bubble. Parents will be asked to collect their children as quickly as they are able to. Please ensure that we have the correct phone numbers to contact you.
- The affected classroom would be deep cleaned. We will take our advice from Public Health England and from Tameside LA.
- The homelearning provision for the children who are isolating will be via Tapestry (EYFS) or Seesaw (Yrs 1-6) The class teacher will post work each day at specific times for different subjects. The teachers have received training on illustrating worksheets or lessons via Seesaw. The class teacher will then be available during school hours to reply to questions via Seesaw or Tapestry. Please be aware that teachers will have one afternoon PPA (Planning, preparation and assessment) time when they will not be online to respond to questions. Please ensure that you have the necessary links to Tapestry and for Seesaw both class and family apps.
- The parents of children not in the affected bubble will also receive a text message and a link to a letter explaining that a child or staff member in school has received a positive Covid test result. In this case unaffected bubbles would remain open and we would continue to be thorough in our procedures for cleaning, social distancing and hand hygiene.

Please be assured that all the measures outlined in the previous newsletter and posted on the school website are continuing. However, we are aware that we can minimise but not completely eradicate risks during the current pandemic. Also due to the constantly changing situation guidance will be reviewed regularly.

POPPY APPEAL: After half term we will be supporting the Poppy Appeal. This year all children in school will be given a poppy by their class teacher. Please don't send money in with your child, collection buckets will be placed at the entrances to school for donations, thank you.

PE KITS: Please ensure PE Kits are washed over the half term break and brought back in when we return. During the winter months the children can wear tracksuit bottoms for PE over their shorts. Some classes may then come home in their PE kit depending on the time of their PE lesson.

PENCIL CASES: After half term the children in Years 4-6 may bring a pencil case in from home. This should be of a standard size and must fit in their tray in class. This would remain in school until the Christmas break. Please remind your child not to share or swap any items that they bring in. Children in lower year groups do not need a pencil case.

NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS: Intrahealth will be carrying out the Nasal Flu Vaccination programme at St Raphael's on **Monday 9th November 2020**. This covers all school age children from Reception to Year 6. Nursery age children are not included in the programme and you should consult with your own GP should you wish your child to receive a vaccine. Further information and consent forms have been sent home and only children who returned consent forms will have the vaccine.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS: As we look forward to Autumn Term 2 our thoughts turn to Advent and Christmas. Whilst we are very aware, we will not be able to undertake our celebrations as we would like, rest assured that we are looking at ways in which can make Christmas a special time and ensure the children have a wonderful run up to the Christmas break. More details about Christmas activities for the children will follow in the next newsletter.

HOMEWORK: The CGP workbooks which were sent home during the period of school closure are still being used from September as homework books. Teachers will be posting on Seesaw and Tapestry the work which is to be completed. Homework books will not be returned to school each week due to the current situation. There are also links on the school website to sites such as Prodigy, Times Tables Rock Stars, BBC Bitesize and the online reading sites which can all provide useful activities.

I would like to thank the staff and the Governors who have worked tirelessly during this half term to ensure that the children can experience life in school that is as normal as we can make it at the moment.

Thank you for all your support and understanding during these difficult times. Please be assured of our prayers as we work

Mrs L. Lakner

together. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

With best wishes and prayers,
Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)
head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk / 0161 338 4095

School Diary

OCTOBER 2020		
Thursday 22 nd	School Closes for Half Term	Usual bubble pick up times.
Friday 23 rd	Staff INSET Day	All day
NOVEMBER 2020		
Monday 2 nd	School Opens Other Faiths Week	Usual bubble drop off times. All Week
Monday 9 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	PM
Monday 16 th	Anti-bullying Week	All week
Thursday 26 th	Year 6 Photographs (rearranged date)	AM
Sunday 29 th	First Sunday of Advent (Quiet Liturgies will be held in school during Advent)	
DECEMBER 2020		
Thursday 10 th	Christmas Dinner Day	
Thursday 17 th	Christmas Party Day (Non-uniform)	
Friday 18 th	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	Usual bubble pick up times.
JANUARY 2021		
Monday 4 th	School opens	Usual bubble drop off times.

VERY HIGH

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

HIGH

MEDIUM

VERY HIGH

Social Contact



1 household / bubble in most locations, indoors and outdoors. Rule of six applies in some outdoors settings like parks, public gardens and sports courts.

Weddings and Funerals



Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for wakes and related ceremonies. Wedding receptions not permitted.

Overnight Stays



Those in area advised against overnight stays in other parts of UK. People outside area advised against overnight stays in area.

Working from home guidance



Work from home where possible.

Shopping and Retail



Open.

Leisure and gyms



Any closures or additional restrictions subject to consultation.

Hospitality



Pubs and bars must close except where they operate as a restaurant, meaning they can only serve alcohol with a substantial meal. Further closures subject to consultation.

Entertainment and tourist attractions



Any closures / additional restrictions subject to consultation. Nightclubs and adult entertainment remain closed.

Education



Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions with option to move to greater online provision.

Healthcare Services



Open.

Residential Care



Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.

Travel and Transport



May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel where possible in or out of the affected area with exceptions including work and school.

Sporting Activity



Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).

Worship



Open, subject to social contact rules.

Childcare



Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.

Youth Clubs and Activities



Permitted.

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:



Wash hands
keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)