

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents, pupils and staff. I hope you and all your family members remain safe and well.

We started the process of welcoming pupils from Reception, Year 1, Yr2, Yr6 and Key Worker pupils back to school from 8th June. It has been wonderful to see the parents and pupils again, it felt so long and it has been a very difficult and challenging time for all of us. Although we can only accept small numbers of pupils back we are continuing to distribute home learning packs and online learning, MyMaths, PurpleMash and Sumdog.

Thank you for your confidence in us by sending your child back to school, I can imagine it must have been a difficult decision and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Pupils returning to school.

We would love to be able to have all our pupils back together as a whole school, due to the safety guidance from the Government we can not at the moment but we have been working very hard to try and welcome as many pupils as possible.

The SLT and Governors took the decision to open in phases, to ensure staff and parents felt safe and secure in returning, our phase one began on 8th June and a total of 32 pupils returned that week, from 15th June our pupil numbers increased to a total of 49 pupils, our phase two started on 22nd June and our pupil numbers increased to a total of 70 pupils.

We can only have a maximum of 15 pupils per bubble; therefore we have to be cautious when welcoming pupils back, if you are considering sending your child/ren back to us we ask that you email the school office and put your request in writing, with your child's name and year group, if you are a key worker we request a photo of your ID badge. Our email address is office@englishmartyrs.southwark.sch.uk please don't think if you have informed teachers on the phone this gives your child a place, please email us.

Well done to all the children who have come back to school. All of the children have been practicing their skills and being active in break and lunch times and also during PE. It has been a joy to see children complimenting each other and having fun after a difficult lockdown period. Some of them found it challenging to exercise after not doing much exercise at home during the lockdown but they have persevered and their fitness is improving already. I would also like to congratulate the children at home who have been doing the exercises on my YouTube channel and have taken ideas from the school website. The feedback from the children shows they have been enjoying these fitness and skill sessions. If you haven't been staying active at home, make sure you start now so that you can improve your fitness as well as your physical and mental health. Mr Longley – P.E. Leader

Food Boxes – we have been receiving weekly breakfast and lunch box hampers with thanks to a partnership company called Wahaca, Guys and St Thomas' Charity, Chefs in Schools and School Food Matters, we have distributed these to families, and texts are sent to parents with a collection date and time, please ensure you arrive on the date and within the time frame, no earlier or later. Please take the box with you that the food comes in, we DO NOT have the recycling facilities to keep them on the school premises, please DO NOT dispose of the boxes along the road in East Street market. Our parents have been very appreciative of the extra help this has given them.

Free School Meals Voucher – It is fantastic news that this scheme has been extended to cover the summer holidays, please note that the school only provides vouchers to pupils on our pupil premium list. We have sent some new applications to Southwark to process, and it is a bit slow receiving feedback to inform us if new applications are eligible. Once we receive notification parents will be contacted. If you would like to apply for Pupil Premium please contact the school for an application, or download one from **Our School** page on the school website – Pupil Premium Application letter and return to the office or email to Ms Johnstone using the school email address.

If your child returns to school we ask that you ensure they attend for the whole week, starting the Monday, if they are unwell you must inform us and you must keep them home for the remainder of the week, if they do not start school on the Monday we are unable to take them on the Tuesday.

Please do not request a place for your child and then not show up on the Monday, if you have changed your mind on the Friday before the start of the following week please let us know as soon as possible, if this happens we then lose the opportunity to offer a place to another child.

Routines

Please ensure your child keeps to a routine and gets up and goes to bed at the same time as they usually would during school term time. This will help their wellbeing and also support them to transition smoothly when they do return back to school.

Exercise

Your child should be doing **at least** one hour of exercise a day. Please look at our school website for some good examples of activities you can do inside and outside of your home. The daily mile at home also has some fun challenges to try: <https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

Reading

Oxford owl website has a free e-library for children to read books online including phonics books - your class teacher can help direct you to your child's appropriate level. Please ensure that your child is reading daily and younger children are read to daily.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Please continue to work on PurpleMash and MyMaths, remember to read daily, keep up the fantastic work you are doing.

Violence in the Home- During this difficult time, the news has identified that the number of incidents of violence in the home has greatly risen. If you or someone you know is a victim of any form of violence please report it, please seek help.

The school is here for you to help you in any way we can. You can also contact the following agencies for advice or to report to: REFUGE- 0808 2000 247

**Solace - 0808 802 5565
IF YOU ARE IN AN EMERGENCY
PLEASE CALL 999**

We are so pleased to welcome back all our pupils, especially Year 6, this is their last year of primary school, before they start their journey into secondary school in September, the Covid-19 lockdown and closure of schools has been even harder on them as it means their last term will be very different, they will not have been able to mix with all their friends who they have grown and developed with throughout their time at EMS. Some of our Y6 and Key Worker pupils who have returned have written their thoughts and feelings on being back to school.

"I love being back to school and I am happy to see my friends and teachers, I enjoyed the learning we do" Favour –

"I feel happy to be back at school because I see my friends and school is a lot of fun" Warren

"I love being back to school; however, I don't like waking up early for school!. We love seeing our favourite teacher again, I have only been at school for a few weeks and it's felt like months" - Jeremiah

"I enjoy going back to school because I have got my brain back working again on most of the things that I have learnt. I forgot when I was at home but when I came back I was taught things that I now know" Treasure

"I am happy to be back to school to see my friends. I enjoy learning. I like to see my friends but most of them are in school" – Shekina

"I enjoy school because we enjoy fun activities and learning a lot of interesting, new things." – Mercy Yr 4

"I really enjoy my first day back and still do enjoy it here. It's better than I expected. We do loads of cool stuffs like art, gardening, sewing, sign language and more" - Blessed Yr5

"I'm happy that I'm at school because I get to socialise with people at school. I'm also happy at school because I get to do fun stuff such as planting and PE." - Judith Yr 5

"I like going to the playground and finding my own space and skipping" – Bernice Yr1

"I enjoy phonic games and fun circle time playing the 3.6.9 game" – Elijah Yr 1

"I like to come to school and do my maths work and play with all my friends" - Francis Yr 1

"I love reading my books in class and going outside to play with the footballs" – David Yr 1

"I enjoy doing my handwriting and playing with the skipping ropes outside" Kareem Y 1

"In 'bubble 5' we are enjoying our maths, reading and writing lesson. Also doing P.E, art and DT and our playtimes. - Y2/3 Keyworker bubble."

"So far, I love seeing my friends every day, it is just a shame we have to social distance, but it is really fun" –Michael

"It is nice being back with my friends and my teachers, I enjoy the days" - Simon

"The best of this school is Friday – we have fish and chips and I really enjoy P.E, I am happy to be back" Daniel

"I am happy to be at school because I get to meet my friends and I get to get ready for secondary school but I wish I could see some of my other friends" Emmanuel

"I am very happy that I came back to school but on the other hand most of my friends are not here. I understand why they didn't come though. It's because of Covid 19 but overall it's great to come back. I get to learn so much. This opportunity is really important to me because if I didn't come back to school, it would mean that I miss 6 months of school (1/2 a year)" - Dara Yr 4

"No Place for Racism"

A Message from your Bishops to the Young People in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark

Archbishop John, Bishop Pat Lynch, Bishop Paul Hendricks and Canon John O'Toole, have prepared a message addressed particularly to the young people. Below are two extracts from the message:

"Racism is incompatible with the Catholic Faith. Whether expressed by the attitudes or behaviour of an individual, or the behaviour of a group, or through unjust structures in society that exclude and discriminate, there is no place for racism at any time or in any place. We say this again: there is no place for racism." "Dear young friends, we want you to use your passion for justice to make a difference to your schools and parishes, your neighbourhoods and communities. Make them places where the gifts and skills, the experience and heritage, of all people, of every background, are honoured, valued, cherished and celebrated. There is no place for racism. Let us work side by side to make it part of our history, not part of our present or of our future together."



EMS Church is happy to announce they are able to welcome you back from 10am-12pm daily (Closed Thursday) - Sat – 5.00pm-6.00pm for "Private Prayer" You can take your children to visit the Church, from Friday 4th July – new guidelines and times come into effect.