

We learn and pray, in faith and love



10.9.2021

Dear families of St. Kentigern's,

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. The children have settled back to school so quickly and all the staff have loved hearing their holiday news. As usual, the children have been very busy, especially Year 1 who had the special job of picking the fruit from our trees.



The warm weather also meant that the children (and Chester) had fun cooling down in the sun.



Covid-19 update

The rules relating to Covid-19 Track and Trace, together with the processes required if a child or staff member test positive for Covid -19, have changed. Please find below the new guidance:

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Settings only needed to do contact tracing up to and including 18 July. Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated*
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

This means that schools will no longer be contacting families in the event that a positive case has been identified. It also means that a class does not have to be sent home if a pupil/staff member tests positive.

As we know, Government guidance changes all the time. I will keep you informed of any updates as soon as school receives them.

Afghanistan Refugee Collection

School have joined the Diocese in collecting essentials for the adults and children of Afghanistan who have recently arrived in Manchester. We would be grateful if you could contribute by donating toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes (for children and adults) deodorants, shower gel etc. and Aptamil baby milk formula. Clothing donations are not required at this time. All contributions will be gratefully received and our Caritas team will deliver them to the local distribution centre on Friday 17th September.

Well done!

We are all so proud of Year 5 children and their parents as every pupil in the year group has completed their homework this week! Given the disruption every child experienced during lockdown, it is vitally important that we work together to close the gap in the children's learning. The challenge is now on to other year groups - can they join Year 5 in the homework Hall of Fame?!

Uniform Ordering

I am aware that some families have experienced difficulties in receiving their uniform order (although the majority of deliveries have now been received). This is as a result of significant supply challenges as a result of the pandemic. These have ranged from disruptions at factories, international shipping delays, port blockages and local lorry driver shortages, to more local staff shortages as a result of the 'pingdemic' and positive Covid cases. Stitch Design have assured us that they are doing everything they can to tackle this on-going, national, problem. If you have any outstanding items from your order, please contact the company directly. The details have been emailed to families via Parent Apps.

Parents App

Please note that you need to have downloaded this app to your device in order to book places in breakfast and afterschool clubs, extra-curricular clubs, absence reporting as well as obtaining information from school in general. Whilst the overwhelming majority of families have signed into the app, many have not taken the final step of downloading the app onto their device. If you need help with doing this, please ask the staff in the school office who will be happy to help you.

Message from Fr. Michael

"Welcome back to a new school term and a new year. I hope everyone is well, and enjoyed some kind of vacation and that you can now look forward to a great new school year. We are still trying to live with the pandemic and all that it brings, so my thanks to all our wonderful school team for ensuring the smooth running of the school, and thank you to every family for the support you bring. St. Kentigern's is such a wonderful school and parish, because we are a family, helping and supporting each other. May I take this opportunity to welcome you to St. Kentigern's church. Mass is celebrated on a Saturday evening at 6.30pm and Sunday morning at 11am. I look forward to seeing you at Mass. May I remind you that we are still keeping a "year of prayer" inspired by St Joseph; this is a year of prayer across the world. So, once again, welcome back. St Kentigern and St Joseph pray for us. "

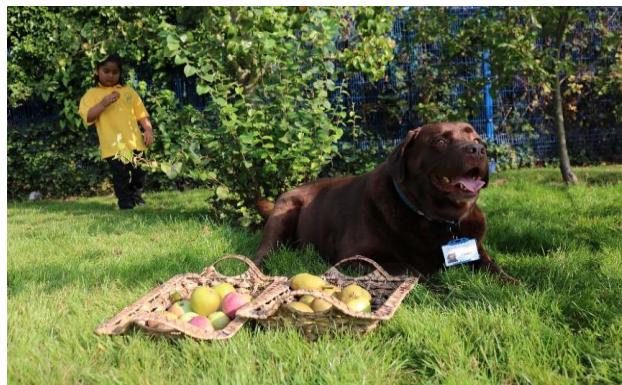
Oh 🐵🐵 & good luck Mayo 😊

Finally, I would like to join Fr. Michael in wishing County Mayo's Gaelic football team all the luck in the world on Saturday. Hopefully, Mayo will be crowned All-Ireland football champions. I know that there are Tyrone fans out there too but it has been a very long time since Mayo held the Sam Maguire Cup!

With continued best wishes,

Madeine Muldoon

Mrs Muldoon
Headteacher



Chester guarded the freshly picked fruit.