

14th May, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Coronavirus Update 59**

Eid Mubarak! ...to all St Margaret's families celebrating the end of Ramadan. And I'd want to pass on my best wishes to all who marked Ascension Day yesterday too. Taking time out from our daily routines to remember such occasions is important, as it reminds us that there is a 'big picture' – life is about much more than our day-to-day activities.

That said, there are a number of things to let you know about our day-to-day activities too – and I'd like to start off, if I may, with a few gentle reminders...

#### **To do list!**

If you haven't already done any of these, I'd be most grateful you could...:

- ...vote in the Parent Governor election; packs were distributed through students last week;
- ...return your Options slip (if your son is in Year 8);
- ...let us know about your son/daughter's likely destination (for parents of students currently in Years 11 or 13 – see below); and
- ...complete a quick survey [here](#) to let us know about Parents' Evenings, PE kit and parental communications (as mentioned last week's *Update*).

Thank you!

#### **Destinations forms – for parents of students in Years 11 and 13**

We would be very grateful if parents of students in Years 11 and 13 could please return the Forms link regarding Destinations Data that has been sent out through Parent Mail. Whilst we understand that situations can often change quite dramatically between now and September, we would still appreciate knowing your plans at this point – not least because we have a statutory duty to collect this information. If you haven't done so already, the Careers Team would be very appreciative if you could return the information at your earliest convenience.

The Year 11 form is [here](#); the Year 13 form is [here](#).

#### **Face masks**

The Government recently published some new advice regarding face-masks; it's contained in an updated guidance document (you can read all 72 pages [here](#)). The face-mask guidance comes into force on Monday 17th May. The relevant section states: "*From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools*".

**Accordingly, students need not wear face masks in school from Monday.** However, students who wish to wear them will be welcome to do so – indeed, we would encourage this, even though they are no longer mandatory. (Please note, however, that we will no longer give face masks out to those who may have forgotten them).

### Free School Meal vouchers

Families entitled to Free School Meals will again receive a £15 voucher to cover the cost of Free School Meals during half-term. These vouchers will be posted out to families (as the Easter vouchers were) over the course of the next two weeks.

We're aware that some St Margaret's families' circumstances have changed recently, and we would encourage all those who may be entitled to Free School Meals to check, and to claim. Even if you don't want a free meal in school, it's worth signing up because we get extra funding for every child on our roll who is entitled to Free School Meals. You can check whether or not you're eligible for Free School Meals [here](#).

### Letter from Steve Reddy and Jonathan Jones

I attach a letter from our Director of Children's Services and our Director of Education, and a letter from the City Council's Road Safety Team too.

### Dr Silverstone's section

Dr Silverstone, our Director of Pastoral Care, writes:

*"In previous bulletins, I've shared information with you about online safety and directed you to various resources to help you explore matters related to young people and all things digital. This week, I'm sticking with that subject.*

*"Recently, the organisation Internet Matters released a report called 'From Survive to Thrive: Supporting Digital Family Life after Lockdown.' The report is the result of surveys of parents about their children's use of technology, their concerns and attitudes to their children's online lives and perceptions of the impact on their wellbeing.*


*"There are many interesting issues raised by the report and statistics that will help to put your child's digital life into a wider context. For example, there is discussion about how much screen-time young people have at the moment, and how parents are reacting to their children's changing digital habits. It's a good read for any of you who might have concerns about the impact that spending time online might be having on your children. You can access the report [here](#)."*

### Finally...

After their last-over defeat to St Hilda's last week, I'm delighted to report that our Year 7 cricket team won their match this week! Mr Kingston reports that the bowling was more accurate and the running between the wickets was much better too. Congratulations to the team; *"if at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again"* is a mantra that all of us would do well to adopt, whether we're sportspeople or not!

Do enjoy the upcoming weekend; we'll be in touch again next Friday.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.



12th May 2021

Dear Head Teacher,

## EU Settlement Scheme

The UK has now left the European Union and you'll be aware that citizens of the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland who wish to continue living and working in the UK must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) for settled or pre-settled status. The deadline to do this is 30 June 2021.

Applying to the scheme is very important as it means that people will protect the rights that they currently have, including the right to employment, to rent a home, and to access healthcare and benefits.

Citizens of these countries who are also parents must ensure that they also apply on behalf of their children, whether their children are citizens of the countries covered by the scheme or, if they are not citizens of those countries, their parent(s) is/are.

It is now fewer than 50 days until the EUSS closes to applications. We would be grateful if you could remind parents of your pupils of the need to apply to the scheme as soon as possible and certainly ahead of the deadline.

Applications should be made online via GOV.UK and are free.

If people need advice prior to making their application they should contact Citizens' Advice in Liverpool as this is the commissioned service to provide support. They can call 0151 522 1725 or email [euss@caliverpool.org.uk](mailto:euss@caliverpool.org.uk)

Best wishes,

Steve Reddy,  
Director,  
Children and Young People's Services,  
Liverpool City Council.

Jonathan Jones,  
Director of Education,  
Liverpool City Council.



slower speeds,  
safer streets



Liverpool  
City Council

## E-Scooters

Dear Parents/Guardians & Pupils

There is a lot of confusion regarding the use of E-scooters on our roads across Merseyside. Liverpool has been nominated as one of several cities to **trial the rental** orange e-scooters operated by VOI and they have been given a temporary VSO (vehicle special order) to allow them to operate and riders to ride E-scooters legally.

It is important to understand that Private E-scooters (i.e. any scooters **not** operated by VOI) have not been given a VSO and are therefore **illegal to use** except on private land and then, only with landowner's permission.

With regards to the VOI trial scooters, there are strict conditions attached to their use as they are classed as motor vehicles

- The person who hires the e-scooter must be 18 and have a UK driver's licence.
- The company renting the vehicle must have insurance for the person hiring.
- **The person must follow traffic laws whilst in control of a rental e-scooter.**
- E-scooters travel at around maximum speed of 15.5 mph
- **The person hiring must keep to the terms of the rental scheme**

In the case of privately owned E-Scooters:

- They **cannot be used** on the roads or public spaces.
- They **can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner**.
- Some private E-scooters can travel more than 40mph
- You cannot get insurance to use these on the road.
- These can be seized by police for no insurance or the rider having no licence.

There have been road traffic collisions involving e-scooters and we want to keep people safe on our roads. The rider of the rental E-scooters may be fined if found committing traffic offences and be given points on their licences.

If you have any issues, or witness any incidents you can contact VOI directly on 0800-3768179 or [support@voiapp.io](mailto:support@voiapp.io)

Road Safety Team Liverpool City Council