

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – Keeping children safe

You may have started to see the poster on the reverse of this letter around school. It is part of a project that we have been developing to support our new Mental Health Strategy. We would like to involve everyone - children, staff, parents / carers and governors at St Mary's. The important idea behind the poster is that we all have feelings but we may have different ways of showing those feelings. The children are being asked to spot the posters around school and then use them as a reminder to spot other people's feelings. They are also being encouraged to show their feelings to others, not to bottle them up or feel that they can't talk about things that are bothering them. We want them to feel they can talk with friends, with staff and, of course, with parents and carers.

As part of this project, we will be focussing on mental health and well-being during week commencing Monday 21st January entitled "It's okay to be different." As part of this week, parents will be invited to a workshop on Tuesday 22nd January at 2pm run by EH4MH about Children's mental health. More information about this is on <http://eh4mh.co.uk/parent-carer-workshops/>

LITTLE LAMBS TODDLER GROUP

Information about our Toddler Group which meets every Monday during term time is on the reverse of this letter.

DIARY DATES

Monday 7th January – Pupils return

Tuesday 15th January – Reception and Yr6 NHS - Weigh and measure

Monday 21st - Friday 25th January - "It's okay to be different" week

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – Half Term

Friday 5th April – Last day of term

Tuesday 23rd April – Term starts

THANK YOU!

Thank you once again to everyone who has helped or supported the many events this term. The level of support shown to the school by our families and friends is quite phenomenal and makes such a lot of difference to the children and staff. Following our Christmas events in particular, please can I remind you all that, if you have taken any photographs or videos of any of the events, please do not share them on Social Media out of respect to other families' privacy and, in some cases, protection. Thank you.

FOSM'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Evidence of the great support the school receives is clear in the £700 plus which was raised on Friday at the Christmas Fair organised by FOSMs. Well done to everyone – it was a very enjoyable event attended by many families and friends.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Autumn Term 2018

Whole school - year to date	96.08%
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This year's target – 96%

We are now approaching the term when, last year, our attendance figures started to significantly decline. In an Ofsted inspection, attendance figures can play an important part in the final judgements made on the school and it is an area where we must work closely together to secure the best results for our children. You can help by:-

- Ensuring appointments are made outside school hours wherever possible.
- Sending your child to school with medicine where needed and the authority for the staff to administer it. Staff can administer both prescribed and non-prescribed medicine with parental permission.
- Not booking holidays in term time.
- Suggesting ways of improving attendance at St Mary's.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the following successes in our achievement assembly today:

Pupil of the Term

Meldon – Cici

Venford – Winnie

Fernworthy – Stephen

Burrator – Macie-Leigh

Saints SW – Pupil of the term

Libby, Harrison, Madeleine, Reuben

Other – Swimming award – Isabel



Top Housepoints

Congratulations to Otter House (Red team) who can wear non uniform on Friday 11th January as a reward for gaining the highest number of dojo points this half term.