



Welcome

Welcome back to St Mary's to those who are joining us again after the summer holidays and to those of you we haven't seen since the start of 'lockdown.'

We have also had a number of new children starting at St Mary's this week who have perhaps not had the chance to join the school for the transition sessions which are normally offered. However, despite the arrangements for starting school in these unusual times, all of the children have adapted well to the new daily routines, which involve additional hand washing, sanitising and remaining in their 'bubbles'. I have also been impressed with their enthusiasm for learning, which I hope will continue over the coming weeks.

Drop off and Collection

Thank you to everyone for adjusting so quickly to our new arrangements for the start of the day and the staggered collection times at the end of the day.

It is very important that we reduce the congestion of vehicles and parents / carers in order to help with social distancing. Therefore, please could I remind you of the following:-

- Maintain social distancing from other parents / carers whilst dropping off and waiting to pick up your child / children.
- Only one person per family should approach the school gates to drop off or pick up from the teacher.
- Leave the car park as soon as children have been delivered / collected.

I shall also be very grateful if children are dropped off and collected punctually, particularly as the weather starts to turn more autumnal. Also, with the additional distance from the school to the field, due to the work on the playground wall, it is using up a considerable amount of staff time to walk back and forth to the field.

School Lunches

As you are aware, Devon Norse have started to supply the school lunches this term. Next week the new three weekly rolling menu begins which will continue until October half term. **Please note, next week will be Week 2 of the new cycle.** Your child can decide on the day what they would like to eat so advance ordering sheets will be sent out. Jacket potato fillings will be:-

Mon – Cheese, Tues – Beans, Wed – Cheese, Thurs – Ham, Fri - Tuna

Due to the restrictions imposed in order to be Covid secure, the food is being delivered in takeaway style boxes with wooden cutlery from next week proper cutlery will be used. The older children are eating lunch in rooms alongside their own classrooms and the younger children are eating in two sittings in the hall. Between the sittings the tables, chairs and regularly touched surfaces are being cleaned.

Healthy Tuck Shop

As you may know, we have run a "Healthy Tuck" shop in school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday for many years. Usually our Year 5 and 6 pupils would organise and run this but, of course, this isn't possible at the moment. However, each 'bubble' will still be able to buy tuck in their class. Items cost 40p so please send money in if you would like your child to purchase something. Snacks currently on offer include cereal bars, dried fruit and low fat snacks.

Individual Photos

Tempest photography will be taking the children's individual photos **this Thursday**. This will be carried out in a Covid secure way but it does mean that we will be unable to take sibling / family group photos this year. Tempest Photography are keen to return to do this later in the year when / if guidelines allow group photos to be taken.

Prayer Focus

For those parents/ carers who are new to the school, each week we share "The Wednesday Word" publication with our families. Every week there is a theme, based on the following week's Gospel reading. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, The Wednesday Word is still being received electronically by the school. This week's word is 'Forgiveness' which links with Sunday's Gospel reading from St Matthew, chapter 18 verses 21-35. It reminds us that we must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Although it might sometimes be challenging for us to do this, it might help to talk through the problem with the other person, remembering their good qualities or even asking God to help us to forgive.

Our prayer this week is the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father

Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

The link to this week's Word is:-

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/forgiveness?pid=MTA101634&v=2.2>

Uniform

Not surprisingly, new school uniform has been in high demand and we are trying to meet everyone's requests but some items are now out of stock, in particular PE t-shirts in sizes 5 – 6 years and 7 - 8. If your child does not have a PE t-shirt, please send them in a plain t-shirt for the time being when it is their PE day. We will order new stock and let you know when this arrives in school.

In the meantime please speak to your child's class teacher, Miss Slack or Mitzi if you have any problems in the short term with clothing.

PE

Thank you to all the children who have remembered this week to come to school in their PE kits when it is their class's day for PE. As the days start to become a little cooler, please remember that the children can wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings over, but not instead of, their PE shorts.

There is a list on the noticeboard in the car park detailing the days when each class has PE - apologies to Burrator Class for the confusion over the correct days - these are Tuesday and Thursday as detailed in the "Return to School" letter. Just as a reminder, the full list is:-

MELDON (Whole class but only Reception children wear PE kit) - Wednesday and Friday
VENFORD (Year 1) - Tuesday and Wednesday
AVON (Year 2) - Monday and Friday
FERNWORTHY (Year 3/4) - Tuesday and Friday
BURRATOR (Year 5/6) - Tuesday and Thursday

Sports' Clubs

This term our after school clubs will be run for specific 'bubbles' to mirror the groupings of children during the school day.

For the first half term, Coach Ben will offer a multi-skills club for Fernworthy on a Tuesday and Burrator on a Friday after school (until 4.30pm). Meldon and Key Stage One (Venford and Avon) will have lunchtime clubs this half term with Ben. After the October half term, we will swap around so that all of the classes have the opportunity to attend an after school club this term.

If you would like your child to take part in a Sports Club, please email school or send in a note giving permission.

Reading Books

Children may bring home reading books this term but reading records will be kept in school rather than sent home each day.

Thank you to those families who returned books from home over the holidays which we were then able to label and reintegrate into our reading book boxes ready for this term.

If you haven't done so already, please could you check at home for any school reading books and return them to your child's class teacher.

Thank you.

Congratulations!

As we are asking children to only bring the essentials into school at the moment, the opportunity we had in our weekly achievement assemblies to celebrate our children's successes in their out of school activities is not available to us.

However we would still like to celebrate these achievements and we would like parents / carers to email a photograph of any trophies or activities that their children have won or taken part in. These should be sent to the school admin address:-

(admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk) so that these can be included in the weekly school newsletter and celebrated in class by displaying them on the whiteboard for the children to show and tell. If you are happy for the photos to be included on our website, please include your permission in the email. Thank you.

This week, we would like to send our congratulations to Poppy for being awarded a Blue Peter badge for her climbing achievements. Poppy started rock climbing during lockdown and is becoming an accomplished climber already. Jonathan's family sent a photo of a fantastic hedgehog which he had made using his art and craft skills over the summer.

Apples

Some of you may remember that, last year, we held an Apple Day in school using apples collected from our school orchard. This year we won't be able to do this but do not want the apples to go to waste. I am pleased to say that we have been given permission to share the apples with our families so will leave a crate of these in the car park at school (on the bench near where the school bus parks). You are welcome to take these at the end or start of the day but please make sure to socially distance if you are waiting to collect these.

Flu Immunisation

Thursday 3rd December 2020

If your child is in Reception to Year 6, they will be eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. St Mary's is booked for Thursday 3rd December and the immunisation will be administered adhering to all up to date Infection Control, PPE and social distancing guidance at the time.

Virgin Care are expecting demand to be high and therefore urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination now. Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating "no" consent. You will also find answers to your FAQ's on this link.

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/dec>

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

School Age Immunisations Team

IXL and Purple Mash

We are currently in the process of setting up new log ins for the IXL programme. Unfortunately, we were unable to renew our subscription at the end of the trial so the children will not be able to access their previous work.

The children can continue to use Purple Mash with their existing log ins. However, as yet, there is no home learning set for the classes.

Eleven plus

We understand that this year's 11+ will now take place on Saturday **17th October**.

Further information can be accessed from the schools themselves. We have been informed by Torbay Girls Grammar that those in Year 6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium / Free School Meals can now access ten hours of on-line familiarisation tutorials at Torquay Girls' Grammar. Further information can be accessed from the Admissions Officer, Mrs Louise Rumbelow (lrumbelow@tggsacademy.org) if there are any further questions or concerns.