



## Parent / Carer "Catch up"

As teaching staff aren't able to chat with parents / carers at the end of the school day in the same way as usual, we have decided that next week class teachers will try to catch up with parents during the week by phone.

This will be a chance to chat about how the start of term has gone and to answer any questions you may have. Obviously if you have spoken to the class teacher about something already, you may not receive another call, but staff will try to speak to everyone at some point during the week.

## Drop off and Collection

Thank you to everyone for supporting the new arrangements for the start and end of the day at school. If I could remind parents / carers that pupils must be at school **by 9.00am** please, as we are locking the gates at this time. Due to building work taking place on the path, it takes five minutes to walk from school to the gates to open up for someone who has arrived late and then five minutes to walk back again. On another note, the children have been excellent at remembering to wash their hands and adhering to the new school routines.

## "Incident at School" scams

We have received reports from Devon Local Authority of parents / carers being called on the phone, allegedly by their school, to say their child has been involved in an incident or taken ill. For example, a parent was called to say their child was ill and asked to dial 1 to be connected to the right person to speak to. This child was at home that day so they knew it could not be correct so they attempted to ring the school but discovered the phone line had been held open reportedly to a high cost phone line. Therefore we just wanted to make you aware of these scams which get people to call / connect to a premium phone line number by saying their child is ill or been in an incident. We would call you ourselves if there was a problem with your child and you can, of course, phone the school direct on 01364 642389.

## Online Learning

Just a reminder that, at St Mary's, we are continuing to develop our online learning opportunities with the children. Please see information below, detailing the two web-based resources which are currently available to pupils (they will bring home logins for these two sites today).

### Purple Mash

For parents / carers who are new to St Mary's, we have been using a web-based resource called Purple Mash for the past year to support children's learning at home and in school. Each child has a login which enables them to access the website from home or at school. The address for this site is:

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/stmarystq11>

Class teachers may set home learning through the website and have also been developing the use of the "Class Blog". Please don't worry about how to access this if your child is new to the school as the class teacher will discuss this with you if necessary during their phone call with you next week.

### IXL

During the lockdown period we trialled the use of another online programme called "IXL" and received lots of positive feedback from parents / carers about this resource. Our Academy Trust has purchased a licence for IXL and so you are also able to access this from home using your child's individual login. The address for this website is:

<https://uk.ixl.com/signin/plymouthcast>

## Individual Photos

As you may know, the children's individual photos were taken this week. Tempest Photography will be sending the proof letters through shortly. Another appointment has been made for February when we hope that sibling / family photos can be taken plus an opportunity to take photos of those absent yesterday.

## Prayer Focus

This week's Wednesday's Word can be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/generous?pid=MTA101634&v=3.3>

This week's Gospel comes from St Matthew, Chapter 20 verses 1-16. The story reminds us that God's love is unlimited and open to all of us. For this reason the special word of the week is "generous". Our prayer this week is:-

*Dear Lord Jesus*

*Thank you for your generous love. Please help us to grow in generosity and to do your work in the world with a loving and generous heart.*

*Amen.*

## Safeguarding

"See, Hear, Respond" is a service provided across England by Barnardo's, and other national and local community-based organisations, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

This service provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). They will support from pre-birth up to eighteen years of age and those with special educational needs under the age of twenty-five.

"See, Hear, Respond" will contact every referral made, so no child is missed. Help is available in one or more of four ways:

- an online hub of support and information
- online counselling and therapy
- face-to-face support for those most affected and at risk of some of today's most pertinent issues, such as criminal exploitation, and
- helping children and young people reintegrate back into school

You can access via the "See, Hear, Respond" service self-referral webpage:

[https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond?utm\\_source=14%20August%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond?utm_source=14%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)  
or Freephone 0800 151 7015.

## Congratulations!

### Somerset Literacy Trust

Some of our children entered a writing competition which was organised by Somerset Literacy Trust. It involved writing a poem, which they based on the painting by Van Gogh, Starry Night. Out of six hundred entries, we are very proud to report that Rumer won overall and received a book and framed copy of her work. Poems by Conrad and Cici were also highly commended and everyone who took part received a certificate.

Congratulations to everyone who took part.

### Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Many of our children entered the annual writing and art competition, organised by CPRE, before the summer holidays and I was really pleased to receive entries from pupils attending school and those working at home.

This year, St Mary's was awarded "Best overall school" for the writing produced by our children and two pupils also won writing awards - Priya and Ayrton. There were also some highly commended prizes awarded to Imogen, Jessica H, Natalie, Theo S-G and Peter. In the art competition, the following children's work was also highly commended: Theo S-G, Nia, Matilda, Isaac and Jessica H.

Well done to everyone who entered and those who were selected for special awards. Although we have not received certificates for anyone yet I believe that these should arrive within the next couple of weeks.

Congratulations also to Olivia and Toby who have been learning to climb over the holidays and sent in a photograph of themselves in action at a local climbing centre.

We would also like to congratulate Mr and Mrs Jessop who carried out a skydive to raise money for Rowcroft and raised over £2,000!