



St. Mary's Newsletter

September 2017



At St. Mary's we aim to provide an environment for all members of our school community where positive attitudes to learning and creativity are promoted and valued within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia, and Trust.

Welcome back

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break and that the children are refreshed and ready for the busy term ahead. A special welcome from us all here to the new children and families starting in Reception this week. We hope that your time here at St Mary's is a happy and engaging experience, in an environment where you flourish and thrive, as individuals and as learners.

Christian Values: Reverence

Each half-term we focus a different Christian value. This half term the Christian value that we are focussing on is 'Reverence'.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.

Psalm 29:2

Staffing updates

We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Steph Bedford, who has joined the school staff as a Teaching Assistant. She will be working with the children in Class One on a Friday afternoon, alongside Mrs Jayne Boast.

Calendar of school events

A hard copy of our calendar of school events has been given out to the children today. This can also be found on our school website at www.stmarysprimaryschool.com Term dates are also included on the calendar and on the website too, so that family holidays

can be booked outside term time, with thanks.

Illness

If your child is ill, please inform school on the morning of the first day of absence between 8.00-9.00am. When your child then returns to school, there is a legal requirement to provide a written note explaining their absence. If this could be brought into school and handed to your child's classteacher on their return, that would be greatly appreciated.

Parking

As we start the new year, please may we remind you to park with consideration to our local residents, allowing clear access to driveways. Also, please leave the zig zag area at the front of school free for school buses and emergency vehicles at all times before and after school.

Please may I also remind all parents that De Mowbray Court is a private driveway and should not be used as a turning point. Any vehicles wishing to turn around are politely asked to use the turning area at the end of the village.

PE kit

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE and games kit in school, and all items of clothing are clearly labelled.

School uniform stall

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 11th September from 8.30-

8.45am. This will include both new and nearly new items at reduced prices.

Dinner money

Key Stage Two dinners must be paid for in advance either weekly, half termly or termly and collected on a Monday. You may choose to have a two day (Monday, Tuesday), three day (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) or full week option. Dinners are priced at £2.15 per day.

School Clubs

Information about forthcoming school clubs will follow shortly.

Peripatetic music lessons

This year there are currently drumming, guitar, violin, flute, saxophone, keyboard, singing and trumpet lessons available for a fee. Details are available on request from the school office. Please contact your child's specific musical instrument teacher directly with any queries.

Safeguarding

At St. Mary's we welcome parents into school on a morning, however, we would ask that you leave promptly via the cloakroom door at the beginning of the school day at **8.45am**. On leaving school, may we ask that you also close the school gate behind you too. The safety of all our children is of paramount importance to us. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Over the summer, you may have seen the media reports regarding Snap Maps, part of the Snapchat app. The minimum age for using Snapchat is 13, but if your child is using this, it is recommended that the Snap Map function is turned off or set to a private mode in the settings, to ensure that any 'Friends' are unable to see the location of your child.

Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will be sent out on Wednesday 20th September. This will keep you informed of the topics and curriculum covered this term, as well as provide hints on how to help your child at home.

Adult helpers

We are very fortunate in having several dedicated helpers who provide assistance to the class throughout the year. This is both invaluable support for the children and great fun for the helper too! If you are able to help in any way, please contact the appropriate class teacher.

Story sacks

These are a fun way to help your child enjoy reading and are located in the School Hall. They are available for children and families to borrow whenever you would like, especially for the children in Reception and Key Stage One, to promote a love of reading. If you would like to borrow these, please sign the story sacks out via the school office.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 5th September: School starts
- w/c Monday 11th September: Class 4 Winmarleigh Fieldtrip week
- Friday 22nd September: FOSM Crazy Tykes for Reception children (after school, time tbc)
- Friday 13th October: Harvest Service at St. Mary's Church, 2.15pm

We welcome all our new parents and children to St Mary's and hope that you will be very happy here. We look forward to getting to know you and working together to support your child. It's also good to see you 'old' children and parents too—welcome back and we look forward to helping you continue your journey here at St Mary's!