



St. Mary's Newsletter

September 2018



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.

A special welcome also to Mrs Kate Waugh who starts in her role as Teaching Assistant in Class 4 and Mrs Steph Bedford who has taken on an increased role as Teaching Assistant in Class 1.

Today has seen the grand unveiling of our improved school building. From conversations with children, parents and staff, we all seem very happy with the improved space that we now have in the classrooms and around school. It has been a very busy period completing the work but the end result clearly justifies this. I would like to thank all the staff for their immense efforts in getting the school ready for today. The Early Years Outdoor Classroom is unfortunately unfinished but we are expecting that it will be completed this weekend.

Christian Values: Creation

Each half-term we focus a different Christian value. This half term the Christian value that we are focussing on is 'Creation'. **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Psalm 19:1

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.co.uk 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 class teacher 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, during and after school.

Please may I also remind 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 10th September from 8.30-8.45am in the school hall. 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

There are a wide range of musical instrument lessons including 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 always welcome parents into school on a morning. After dropping your child off, please may we ask that you leave promptly via the cloakroom door by 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. Please may we ask that any late arrivals sign in at the office, where children can then make their own way to class. Maximising learning time

and the safety of our children is of paramount importance to us. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will be sent out on Wednesday 19th September. This will keep you informed of the topics and curriculum covered this term, as well as provide tips 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:

- Wednesday 5th: School starts
- Friday 21st: FOSM Crazy Tykes for Reception children (after school, time tbc)
- Friday 5th October: FOSM Film Night, 3.15-5.00pm
- Friday 12th 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 with us here at St Mary's!