

# St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 11st September 2020

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## Attendance

Weekly – 98.1%

Year to date – 98.1%

– WELCOME –  
BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome Back!

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for helping to keep our first full week at school so calm and peaceful (which you cannot often say about a primary school with over 200 children) and also so very positive. It has been really lovely to see how well the children have settled into their new classes, especially with so many changes to contend with! A big thank you must go out to everyone involved. I have spent much of the last week and a half walking around the school, visiting each of the classrooms and it has been so lovely to see how well the children have settled in to their new routines. I have seen lots of smiling, happy faces, as well as lots and lots of determination and hard work – and I am so proud to see that the children have come back to St Mary's so well, after such a long period out of a school setting. They are clearly ready to learn and I look forward to seeing this in action as the year progresses!

Over the course of this term, as a school community, we are going to be talking to our St Mary's pupils about a number of key themes. These involve: having a good attitude, working hard, showing resilience, looking after one another, being polite as well as being dressed smartly. I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing the children demonstrate these qualities throughout the year. I have no doubt that the school is going to have another really successful year, where everyone works together to achieve the very best for all of our children.

Can I say a big thank you to everyone for following all of our school guidelines and our new Health and Safety routines so brilliantly. Can I just remind all parents and carers and visitors to the school that we need to have only **one adult** accompanying our pupils into the school setting for pickup and drop-off - this is so that we can keep the risk of COVID transmission down and so that we can keep everyone in our community safe. I am sure you would all agree that we want to do our very best to keep each class bubble 'open' as well as the school up and running and we must do everything we can to achieve this.

Since the start of term, a number of school staff at St Mary's have been supporting the pick up and drop off arrangements in the morning and at the end of the day, to help keep the pupils safe and also to provide reassurance to our parents and carers. As the term progresses, we will continue to carefully examine our pick-up and drop off arrangements and make improvements and changes where we feel they are necessary. We are going to keep our current arrangements in place for the time being, as we feel that it is important not to cause added confusion - especially as many of our children have been out of a school setting for a substantial period of time.



## Welcome to our new Reception children and our other new pupils!

A big welcome to our new Reception cohort who have joined us this term. I would also like to say a warm welcome to all of the children who have joined us in other year groups. They have all settled in so beautifully and I cannot believe how well they have settled in to school life at St Mary's. Mrs Jeewan (our Butterfly class Teacher as well as Head of EYFS and Key Stage 1) and Mrs Hunter (our lovely new Butterfly class Teaching Assistant) have already told me, in glowing terms, how well their new starters are already doing and how happy they all are. They are particularly impressed with those pupils who have come into

their classrooms independently, bringing in their own bags, snacks, water bottles and coats on their own. Very well done! Can I just take this opportunity to say thank you to the Early Years team.

Mr C. D. Jarman  
Headteacher at St Mary's

## School Uniform

As you will know, St Mary's is well-known for its smart pupils and purple, white and grey school uniform and on the whole I have been very pleased with how smartly dressed the children have been, as they have passed me on the school gate and when I have passed them throughout the school, or met them in their classrooms.

To start off the school year the school is having another close look at the children's school uniform; so please help us by ensuring that your child or children are wearing the correct uniform. In regards to footwear the children should wear black shoes, not trainers. It is also important that the children shirts are tucked in, especially as they arrive at school and leave at the end of the day. We are also checking on hair bows; can parents just check that some of the bows are not too big. Also, could I remind everyone that nail polish or varnish should also not be worn during the school week. Thank you for your help and support in this matter!

## Old P.E tops/shorts/leggings/trainers

If anyone has any P.E clothes that no longer fit their child, then we would welcome them. Please drop any in to the school office.



### Football Boots

We would be extremely grateful if any families at St Mary's have any spare football boots lying around at home that aren't being used any more (any size!) and we will keep them carefully stored at school to use for our children so that they don't have to purchase any new ones. Thank you!

## eSafety

Although TikTok is age restricted to 13+ we know that many primary school age children are accessing it. Please be aware that as well as the recent serious safeguarding concerns regarding this app it can also pose a significant threat to your child's safety online due to its's open messaging system which allows any adult user to message any child. Therefore, I am linking some safety advice from Internet Matters designed to make parents aware of the pros and cons of this platform. If your child is using TikTok, I would advise you discuss the concerns with them. As with all internet platforms, there are good and bad aspects to their use, I hope the below article will serve to make you aware of these where possible so that you can make informed choices.



<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## Collective Worship

Due to restrictions and changes which have had to happen within school this term, Collective Worship will look a little different. Children will still take part in daily Collective Worship and we will still be taking part in our Autumn services (including Harvest, Light Day, Remembrance and Christmas). These will just be taking place virtually. Mr Jarman will still carry out a Collective Worship for the children every Monday morning, but this will now be videoed and sent to class teachers to share within the classroom. Themes which will be covered within the classroom as part of Collective Worship this term include perseverance (our Autumn 1 value), compassion (our Autumn 2 value) 'let your light shine as you grow' (our ethos), creation and incarnation. We will also be looking at Black History Month during October and Anti-Bullying Week in November. We will continue to have our weekly celebration assemblies within in class and will then display the children's certificates and photos in the school hall so that all of the children can see and celebrate the hard work of their peers. For Harvest, Light

Day, Remembrance and Christmas, we will film sections from individual classes to go towards the services and will combine these together into one service which can be shared via video with each class.



## P.E

We are back into the swing of things on the PE front and the children have been loving their PE lessons. Despite the restrictions, Jackie and Carron at USSP have been working hard to provide some fantastic events for the children this term which will be carried out in the respective schools and then the results will be collated together enabling the children to still 'compete' with one another. These include football and indoor athletics but we are also going to be having a skipping day (more on that later) and KS1 will be taking part in the scoot initiative that was so well received last year. Added to that we will be asking Year 6 to apply for the Sports Ambassadors and house captain roles so that we can do lots of our own inter-house events here in school run by our wonderful children!



## Our Shining Lights



Reception	Well done to all of the children for settling into school so well! We have been very impressed with the children coming into school with no adults and getting stuck straight into our activities. Don't forget their 'All About Me' boxes are due in for Friday 18th September. Thank you very much for all of your support too!
Year 1	Ladybirds are off to a flying start this Autumn term and are getting back into school routine. We have made a start on our topic "What makes me a me", learning a song, drawing self-portraits, labelling pictures of ourselves and our families and thinking carefully about what makes us special. We have talked a lot about what it is like to be back in school and our expectations in the classroom. Their teachers have all been so impressed with how hard they are all trying every day, especially after such a long break from school and we are looking forward to a busy and fun-filled term.
Year 2	Our Caterpillars have adapted so well to coming back to school and have showed great listening and perseverance. Our highlights include discovering Hip Hop Granny, improving our skipping and listening to our new class book by David Walliams - Blob. Remember to bring in their waterproofs as they are looking forward to exploring the school for living things and their habitats. We have begun to learn about pioneers - if your child would like to find out at home about a pioneer that interests them, we would love to hear about what they have learnt.
Year 3	Children have all settled in brilliantly this week and have been extremely welcoming to our new members of the class. They became archaeologists at the beginning of the week when they went in search of Ancient Egyptian artefacts and discussed what these artefacts might tell them about life at that time. They also showed some fantastic throwing and catching skills when learning netball passes in PE this week.
Year 4	We have settled back into school remarkably well in Year 4. This week we have started our topic (Raiders and Invaders) and have looked at the route the Anglo-Saxons to the UK and where they settled. We also started our Science unit and looked at sound and how we hear things. A massive well done on this week, Fireflies!
Year 5	This week, we have started looking more at the Ancient Greeks in our topic work. In Geography, we located Greece on different maps, placed the major city states of Athens and Sparta and then in History looked at how Ancient Greeks could be as different from each other as they were from us! We also learnt how to spot different Greek gods in pottery using their symbols!
Year 6	We have settled in really well. We have started our Crime & Punishment unit comparing crimes to their punishments and whether we felt they punishment matched the crime!