



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017

5th September

Dear Parents/Carers

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to a new year at St. Mary's.

Before I begin I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Dutton who has led the school admirably for so many years and who has taken a great deal of time in handing over the reins to me.

I want to thank the staff for their welcome and wisdom. I have inherited a great team, who clearly have the best interests of the children at their heart and have created a school with a wonderful atmosphere.

With any new headteacher a change in perspective comes and of course some change is inevitable. I believe there is nothing to fear: the changes that will come will be carefully designed and considered to enhance our children's schooling.

I believe that every child deserves a 'real childhood'. One that provides them with opportunities to learn, create, imagine and explore the world around them – living life to the full. I am passionate in my aim to make their time at school as rewarding and as enjoyable as possible, championing best practice.

During the course of our Inset days the staff team (and governors) have been sharing with me their hopes and aspirations for the school; we have begun to formulate a new Development Plan which I shall of course present to you in due course. I have looked at and considered the feedback provided by parents and pupils in response to the end of year questionnaires in this regard too.

Finally, I would like to thank the governors for appointing me as Headteacher of this school. They work hard behind the scenes in what is an entirely voluntary role – I really appreciate their support and commitment to St. Mary's.

I am thrilled to be the new Headteacher of St. Mary's and I will certainly be endeavouring to be the best I can in the love of Christ.

Meet the Teachers Evening

We would like to invite you in on the evening of Thursday 14th September (apologies for the short notice). In order to give you the opportunity to meet me

as well as your child's new class teacher and find out about their curriculum plans for the term, classroom expectations and homework etc. This is not an individual consultation and each class will have a twenty minute time slot for all of the parents to come in at once – though you may of course want to loiter for individual informal chat at the end.

Introduction from Mr Bird: 6:30pm

Years 2, 5 and 6: 7:00pm

Years 1, 3 and 4: 7:30pm

As we will be expecting a lot of parents on this one evening we do ask that children are not brought along.

Open Afternoon for Parents of Year R and 1

We would like to invite parents (and/or grandparents) of children in Reception Class and Year 1 to our open afternoon on Friday 29th September. This will provide an opportunity for you to have a look at what your child is doing in school as well as giving you a chance for an informal chat with their teacher.

Parents will be able to come into the classroom between 2.15 and 2.45pm. Tea/coffee is served in the hall from 2.45 to 3.15pm providing you with the opportunity to meet with and chat to other parents.

Please note that we do not have space for buggies inside the building and school staff cannot supervise pre-school children.

Year R Six Weeks in Meeting

On the morning of the 19th October the Reception Class team will be holding their Six Weeks in Meeting. This is a chance for them to explain how reading and phonics works at St. Mary's as well as giving you hints and tips on regarding how best to support your child at home. This will begin at 9am and we hope to be finished by approximately 10am.

Worship

This half-term Kate Bailey, Curate at St John's, will be talking to us during our Tuesday Worship. Parents are welcome to attend at 9:15am on any Tuesday.

Children in Reception Class will start joining us for some Worship Assemblies after half term.

We hope that you will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival and Communion Service on Wednesday 11th October and at our Advent Communion Service on Wednesday 20th December. These will take place in St. Mary's Church at 2.00pm.

50th Anniversary

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Primary School. We have therefore booked the church for a celebratory service on Friday 6th October at 2pm. You are of course very welcome to come and join us.

Library

Please be aware that we are currently in the process of rebinding and reorganising the school library books. We therefore don't expect to be issuing any until the week beginning the 18th September.

Harry the PAT Dog

For your information: we will be welcoming Harry the PAT Dog into school on Mondays as usual. He works in the group room listening to some of our readers.

Clubs

A reminder that after school and lunch time clubs for Juniors start in the week beginning 25th September.

There is also a very successful club run by Sama Karate which meets in our school hall from 5.00-7.00pm on a Tuesday. This is separate from our school clubs but if you would like further information about this please contact Tristan on 07983532167.

School Uniform

Please ensure that all uniform, PE kit etc. is clearly labelled. Named lost property can be returned to your child.

While the weather is so changeable Juniors may choose winter or summer uniform but all children should be in winter uniform after half term please. May I remind you that skirts and trousers should be grey and not black.

Reminders

A reminder that no nail varnish or jewellery should be worn, apart from small stud earrings and watches, and that girls should have long hair tied back at all times with a plain band or discrete scrunchy in school blue or grey.

Also a reminder that we are a nut free zone as we do have children with severe nut allergies at school. Nut free includes any biscuits which may have nuts in them. Thank you.

Communications

Please ensure that the office has your correct details for emailing and contacting you. Please do phone in ASAP if your child is not going to be in school. These arrangements not only ensure efficient communication but keep our running costs low.

Secondary School Applications

If you are applying for a secondary school place for September 2018 the deadline for applications is October 31st.

Arriving at School

Please note that if your child arrives at school after the gate has shut at 8.45am, you must sign them in at the School Office. A member of staff will then ensure your child goes to their classroom. Please do not take them through the school yourself as lessons will have already started for the day and this is very disruptive for the other children.

Here's to an exciting year ahead. Let's enjoy it together!

Mr Alexander Bird

