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## **May 2018 Newsletter**



Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Mary's,

This week sees the end of another busy term – full of exciting teaching and learning. This term our Football team has done well as has our Netball Team. We are all very proud of their commitment and hard work in these areas.

This week we were also thrilled with our Fluency Factor Assembly. Four of our teachers joined in a reading competition where they had to demonstrate fluency and expression in their reading. They delighted us with their efforts and staff and children roared with laughter. The challenge has now been thrown open to every child in the school. We have asked them all to find a few paragraphs they can read with expression from any book of their choice. In their classes they will find a winner who will then represent their class in a live final in the summer term. Please encourage your child to take part and practice with them at home.



### **Year 6 SATs**

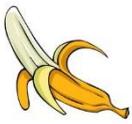
Last week, Year 6 sat their tests. We were all so proud of the way they handled them and know that whatever the outcome they can be assured that they all tried their best. Test results, we must remember, will only ever reflect a small part of what makes our children so wonderful. I'm proud to be a head teacher of a school that recognises achievement in all areas.

## **Trainers**

As a school we have decided that we no longer wish pupils to change into indoor pumps. The main reason for this is to do with Health and Safety. We have noticed that children are not putting their feet into their pumps correctly and leaving the Velcro strip undone. Sooner or later there will be an accident. Children will be expected to have trainers in school for outdoor PE and playtimes if playing football. Please do not send children into school wearing trainers as they will then not have a change of footwear for PE. If you have any concerns please speak with the class teacher.



## **Healthy Snacks**



We have noticed that crisps and biscuits have started to sneak into school for snack time. These are definitely not allowed. We usually have fruit available so after half term we will ask the children to put the unhealthy snacks back into their bags and eat a piece of fruit (if available) . Please support us in this.

## **Holidays**

We know that many families would love to be able to take holidays out of term time. We cannot sanction this due to valuable learning time being lost. Thank you to those families who support us in this and those who are honest about it when their children are taken away on holidays. We have had several occasions where by parents have phoned their children in 'sick' when we know they are actually away. As a school this upsets us as we try to teach children to be honest and yet know that we have been lied to far too often . We respectfully ask that you think upon this and ensure honesty at all times. The school dates are always available on the school website so please check before booking a holiday.

## **Teacher Vacancy**

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Natalie Whittall will join the teaching staff next year. She has trained with us this year and loved the school so much that she is staying. At her interview she stressed how much support the whole school had given her and how she was made to feel welcome from day 1. I know that you will all support her as she joins the St Mary's Community.

## Important dates

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Break up at 3 p.m. For Whit half term holiday
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June - Return to school
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> / Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 residential to London
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June -School photographer to take class group photos
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day (weather permitting)
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> July -Y2 residential to Beeston
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July - Parents celebration afternoon 2pm
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Y6 Leavers service, St Mary's church
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Close for summer holidays at 2 pm

## GDPR

You will probably have recently seen a lot of talk about data protection and the new GDPR regulations that come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Everyone has a right to have their personal information kept confidential and that includes the children and families who come to St Mary's. The school is committed to protecting this privacy and the law requires that we keep data (personal information) confidential and secure. As a school we have been working to ensure we are compliant with the new regulations, staff have been trained and are aware of their own responsibilities to keep your data secure. Mrs Jackson has been appointed the school's Data Protection Officer and the Governing body has a link Governor – David Hamflett, who also looks after pupil data.

We recently issued a privacy notice, as we are required to tell you about the sort of data we keep, why we keep it and how we intend to keep it secure. Most of the data we hold is on the Legal basis of Public Task – we need this information to meet our statutory obligations of educating and safeguarding your children. There is other data that we require consent for i.e. photographs. We have asked in the past for your permission to take and use photographs, however the rules of GDPR mean that we will need to ask for consent again, being much more specific about the intended usage of those images. You will soon be asked again on Parentmail for your consent for photographs to be taken. Please help us by completing this form as soon as possible.

We ask that every family play their part in protecting other people's personal information. The school has an obligation to ensure that the data it holds is accurate and up to date. To help with this task we will be inviting you to register with SIMS Lite. Once registered this will allow you to check and amend if necessary the personal information we hold about you and your child – e.g. addresses, phone numbers, health issues. The KS2 children will be asked to sign a new Acceptable Use Agreement – These rules will keep them safe, keep their information private and help them be fair to others. The children and their families have the right to have their data kept confidential and we ask you to share the duty to maintain other people's confidentiality.

We wish you all a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you back (hopefully with the sun shining!) after half term.

