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September 2020 Newsletter

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

Welcome back to the start of another very busy term. Since returning, children have been full of stories – telling us all about their many adventures over the summer. It is lovely to see how calmly they all returned to school and excited to be in their new classes.

Good News for the Playground

I hope you agree that the key stage 1 playground looks much better. Levelling and resurfacing turned out to be a much bigger job than anticipated. We have a company lined up to install some play equipment over half term, so it should be even better when you return after the holiday.

A strange request We are designing a memorial garden for these unprecedented times. We want to move something in school but need the assistance of a Hiab crane lift if anyone has one or knows of someone who can help us out.

Green Flag Award

Mrs Curtis leads our Eco work in school. At the end of last term we were delighted to be awarded the highest accolade that a school can achieve in this area. Below is an extract of our feedback.



'Thank you very much for your recent Green Flag application and your amazing uploads – it was a delight to read them all and I am very pleased to say your school has passed. Congratulations on achieving your Green Flag! I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for continuing to work on your Eco-Schools Green Flag during these unprecedented times - it is a true reflection of your schools determination to make a real difference. If possible please pass on my thanks to your Eco-Committee. '

We are delighted with this award and would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Curtis and her Eco team.



Staff News

We are delighted to tell you that Miss Reece has become Mrs Ramanouski. After the announcement that only 15 could attend weddings, she acted quickly and rearranged her wedding in a night. We are all delighted for her and she has married another favourite at St Mary's – our sports teacher Mr R.

They will certainly have a story to tell their grandchildren after rearranging their wedding 3 times!

Other news is that Mrs Condon – one of our longstanding Mid-Day Assistants – has retired. She has certainly earned this after many years of service here. We wish her every blessing for her future and she will certainly be missed.



On line Learning Platform

Staff are working hard to get to grips with Microsoft Teams. Should we need to close a bubble, this is the platform we will use to have daily contact with the children. This is not an opt in service, but a directive from the government. Please ensure your child is using Teams to access their homework weekly. **The facility is there to contact teachers, but it should only be used about work related matters.** In addition it is also not a platform for discussions between pupils and / or parents. If you need to contact school with an enquiry, please use the normal routes. Year 3 have been superstars getting to grips with this. It is new to everyone so thank you for persevering. Mr Owen has led on this and he too has been amazing.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

You have been sent a link for this terms 'Meet & Greet' meetings. In addition we have offered a written summary of how your child has settled or a brief phone call. If you opted for the call, we will be in touch. If you opted for the written summary, they will be sent out the last week of this half term.

School Photographer

We have delayed our usual autumn photos until January. We are uncertain whether to proceed so would welcome some feedback.



Nursery

Everyone knows how superb our Nursery is but we have lots of spaces. Please spread the word that we have capacity to take more children and are keen to hear from anyone that is looking for a Nursery space. We are now able to take children straight after their 3rd birthday rather than waiting for a term to start.



Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle - filled - each day - regardless of the weather. Water bottles can be purchased from school if you wish.

Car Park

This is a staff car park, so please do not use it. This is for the health and safety of all our children.

Harvest

Each class will celebrate Harvest in their classrooms on Wednesday October 14th. We are unable to accept donations of any kind, but if you would like to donate we would ask you to pop a food item into the charity trolley when you next go supermarket shopping.



Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow



You have already received information about supporting the National Mental Health day on October 9th. Children will learn about the importance of keeping healthy minds on that day. We are encouraging them to wear an item of yellow – sock, headband, hat etc. They are also able to contribute to Young Minds if they wish. Please bring donations into school in an envelope.

And finally..... I want to say a huge thank you to staff. Many have been through difficult circumstances in recent months, but all have returned with a smile on their face, ready to do the best they can for our children. We are all dealing with new protocols and procedures, and whilst we may not get things perfect straight off, their resilience has been tremendous. I am proud of every single one of them.