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September 2021 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. A special welcome to Reception parents – your children are doing remarkably well and already making us smile.

Many of you know that our school vision is -

**Our vision is to inspire and grow
a compassionate community of excellence.
A place for our children to shine for God,
for each other, and for themselves.**

With this in mind we ask you to support us in this vision. Please talk with your child about how they can be compassionate and help others. This is a thread that will weave through everything we do at school. If you know of any local causes you think we can support – please do come and let us know.

Good News for the Playground

You may have noticed our little garden area between key stage 1 and 2. With the help of Garden Solutions (local company who were beyond fantastic) we built a little quiet area. Every child designed a stone with their name on and it has been included in our garden. After the chaos of the past 18 months, we just wanted somewhere that was a designated quiet area where anyone could go and just think. Our intention is that we go and just quietly give thanks for what we have come through as an individual, a family and a community.

Communication Hub

Halton's vision is for every child in Halton to be given the best start in life so that they are happy, healthy and able to reach their full communication potential. We would like all children to be; TALKERS, LEARNERS, ACHIEVERS.

Halton's Communication Pathway and Halton's online Communication Hub provides guidance and information to support children and young people on their language journey from 0-19 years. The Communication Hub provides a wealth of language and communication information and resources which can be easily accessed by parents/carers and professionals by searching '[Talk Halton Communication Hub](#)'. The Communication Hub provides valuable information on communication concerns, information about services to support and help children's communication, and information on courses and training available to support speech, language and communication. It also provides information on stages of language and communication skill development throughout the ages

Online Learning Platform

We never want to go into lockdown again, but we need to be prepared. Many children are still having to isolate and 10 days at home is a long time. We are intentionally using our TEAMS to set homework so that children are used to using it. In the event of a lockdown or an isolation period, work will be set on TEAMS.

Meet the Teacher Meetings KS1

Thank you to all the parents who attended our sessions. You will have heard that our procedures for teaching reading have changed. If you were unable to make these meetings please talk to your child's class teacher to understand how you can support us with this

Racial Injustice

As part of our Collective Worship we are looking at racial injustices and here is the link we are sharing at school. Please feel free to watch it with your children and have a conversation about why it matters to us.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfwUWSYC5A0>

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. We are also happy to take children part time.

Little Harvesters at St Mary's Nursery

It's that time of the year again when we reap what we sow! In the Spring the little ones of St Mary's Nursery plant lots of seeds like carrots, pumpkins, tomatoes, radishes and potatoes. During the growing season they keep themselves busy with the watering and nurturing of the tiny plants. So, when they return in September it's such a delight to discover how everything has grown and then to experience the joy of harvesting their vegetables. With great pride they show off the vegetables to their families before they spend a morning making their very own



Harvesting the Carrots

vegetable soup. Yum yum!! A great way to say hello to Autumn.



Making the Soup

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

Harvest Assemblies will be taking place on 28th September. We will be collecting tins for the local foodbank and voluntary contributions to CAFOD's campaign for Harvest. Toni Woodhead one of our Governors will be talking to the children about life in the Amazon.

More highlights of school life

- We have a class who are learning to sign and it is so lovely to see how keen they are
- Judo club is starting this week and the take up has been great
- Year 6 are booked in for taster days at a local high school
- We have secured over 150 trees which we are hoping will be planted by families next term
- The panto is booked for Christmas!
- The caterpillars are turning into butterflies in Year 2
- We have hundreds of new books to read
- Afterschool clubs will begin in October and there are lots planned
- Our school council has met for the first time this year
- Our lovely RE artwork depicting a bible timeline is finished and up in the hall – please come and take a look
- We have some family learning session booked

And finally..... I want to say a huge thank you to staff for starting this year running. Their energy and pace is amazing and I am proud of every single one of them. I am really looking forward to this year. As always if you are uncertain about anything or need to speak to one of us, please call the school office.

Important Dates

- Tuesday 28th September – Year 5 - St Chad's Taster Session
- Tuesday 5th October – Year 5 - St Chad's Taster Session
- Tuesday 5th October – School Photographs (individual)
- Tuesday 12th October – Year 5 - St Chad's Taster Session
- Friday 8th October – Hello Yellow Day
- Monday 18th October – Flu Immunisations
- Wednesday 20th October – Y5 Trip to Cheshire Fire Service, Lymm
- Friday 22nd – School closes for half term 3.00 p.m.
- Monday 1st November – School reopens