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September 2023 Newsletter

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

Believe it or not we are all thrilled to be back after a lovely summer break. Our children look lovely in their new uniforms and are eager for learning. St Mary's are thrilled that a new staff member has joined us. Ms Elwell is a part time class teacher in Year 3 and has had a great first week. Reception too have had a great start to the term and we are looking forward to getting to know many of our new parents. This will be a busy term, and we already have lots planned.

Attendance

St Mary's is dedicated to supporting strong attendance for all children so that they receive an excellent education. The benefits of being in school are numerous and we know children are at a disadvantage when they miss out on lessons. We would ask all parents to follow the steps below.

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. We will always call if we feel your child is struggling in school.

Have a backup plan for if you are unable to bring your child to school, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help! Please speak with Mrs Bain our Family Support Worker or Mrs Tainsh.

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Members of the Attendance Action Alliance have worked with the Department for Education to develop this short guide which helps parents understand how they can work with their school and local authority to support their children to attend school and get the right support.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/>

School spaces

We do now have spaces in many year groups. If you know of someone who is looking for a school space, please talk to the school office.

Vandalism

It seems that St Mary's has become a hotspot for youngsters of an evening. We have CCTV that has identified lads on our roof. Thank you so much to the parents who called the police one evening and can we ask that if anyone spots anything else – they also call the police. Thank you.

Collective Worship

We are always keen to invite parents into school and family worship is a lovely way of being able to do this. We are currently putting together a programme and will let you know the dates when they are confirmed. We will have a whole school family worship – which anyone is welcome to attend. These will start at 2.40 pm on a Wednesday. Sometimes we will have a Governor from the church taking the worship, and sometimes it will be a member of the school leadership team. We will share a story from the Bible and sing some songs. We look forward to welcoming you when you are available. In the past we have been able to accommodate the numbers of parents who are able to come. Should we find that numbers are large, we may have to rearrange into key stages.

Dates of Family Assemblies:

27 Sept
29 Nov
31 Jan
28 Feb
27 March
24 April
22 May
26 June

In addition, each class will be leading a Parent's Assembly to let you know what they are learning. These will run throughout the year and we will try and give as much notice as we can for these sessions. We will only be able to accommodate parents for these, if it your child's year group leading.

Parent Assemblies:

Year 4 Oct 4th
Year 6 Oct 18th

Harvest & Charities

As you know Harvest is a time of thanksgiving and giving to others.

We aim to continue to support the Foodbank and a donation box is situated in the foyer of school for anyone to donate to.

Our Harvest celebrations will take place on October 25th and parents are invited to join their child's class. Reception, Years 1 & 2 will lead an assembly at 9.15 am. Years 3-6 will lead an assembly at 2.30pm. All food donations will go the Foodbank (please do not give perishable foods – tins or dried foods are great).



As a school we are very proud of Charlie, a year 3 child and his siblings, Lizzie and Rosie who took part in the National Transplant Games during the summer. He did really well. During the year we wish to support "Team Pratt" who are raising money to support Child Bereavement UK. Well done Charlie, Lizzie and Rosie.



We would also like to support Alder Hey this year. We have several families who are under their care, and we wish to support the amazing work they do.

On Friday 20th October, children will have the opportunity to donate to the above charities. They can pay £1.00 and wear autumnal coloured clothes to school.

Trips

As you know the Government encourages schools to take pupils on trips to enhance the curriculum. In the present economic climate, I know this places a strain on many families. I have asked staff to ensure that parents are given as much notice as possible of school trips. If any trips pose a problem please make an appointment to come and talk to me about it. We will endeavour to keep some trips local, but our plan is to get each class out of school at least once a term. In the past we ran several residential trips – we have year 6 going out soon and are looking at possibilities for other year groups.

Shoes and uniform

Wearing school shoes really makes our uniforms look smart. We do ask that if pupils want to access the field during break / lunch time, they have a change of footwear i.e. trainers. Pupils no longer change into pumps for indoors.



Please ensure your child does not wear any jewellery apart from stud earrings if they have their ears pierced.

After school clubs

Last year our uptake on after school clubs was disappointing. We are currently also looking at running clubs in the lunch hour too so that children have several options.

Meet and Greet your child's new teacher

We will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" session where parents are invited to come in and meet their child's new class teacher and learn a little about what is in store for your child in this academic year.

The meetings will start at 3.15 p.m. and last approximately half an hour.

19th September for Reception, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

20th September for Years 1 and 2.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. The official paperwork for nominations etc. will be coming out in due course. In the meantime, if you are interested and would like to learn more about the role then please contact Mrs Tainsh.

Good news

Everyone's hard work and efforts have been rewarded - school has recently achieved 2 awards;

- The Bronze School Games Award
- The Green Flag Award

Well done to everyone for working so hard

Important dates

- 19th September - Meet & Greet for Y3-Y6 & Reception
- 20th September - Meet & Greet for Y1-2
- 3rd October – Photographer in school to take Individual Photographs
- 4th October Y4 Class Assembly
- 17th & 18th October – Parents Evenings
- 18th October Y6 Class Assembly
- 20th October Autumn Own Clothes day £1 donation to support "Team Pratt" and Alder Hey
- 25th October Harvest Assemblies – (9.30 a.m. R, Y1, Y2 then 2.30 p.m. Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6)
- 27th October – Finish for half term holiday
- 6th November – Return after half term holiday