



## *Newsletter*

### **September**

Welcome back to what we are sure will be an exciting and enjoyable school year. The children are all looking very smart in their uniform and it is lovely to see them so full of enthusiasm for the new school year.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our returning children and staff and in particular, the 15 new Reception children and the 6 new starters across the school. We are also welcoming three new teachers who have joined the school this September. Mrs Clarke, in the Foundation Stage, Miss Hensman in Year 1 & 2 and Mrs Hext in Year 3 & 4. Alongside this, we have been joined by Tracey Molland, our new caretaker and Mrs Burroughs and Mrs Bean, our new Learning Support Assistants. It's lovely to see so many new faces! Although I'm not quite a new face I have really enjoyed settling into my new role, with my new married name to add to the novelty!

### **Volunteers**

We are so lucky to have so many brilliant volunteers at Brixton St Mary's School. In particular, a special mention this month goes to John Hill who has looked after the pool in preparation for the swimming lessons this Autumn and Lee Molland who has already given up some of his evenings to help with jobs around the school. We have also been joined by Sue Wall, who has offered to help in the office, so you may notice a different voice at the end of the phone now when you call in! If you think you may like to help within the school community in any way, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher - all help is much appreciated!

### **SWIMMING**

It has been great to continue our swimming lessons with Mrs Wilcox. She is very excited about the fantastic progress all children made last term and is looking forward to continuing weekly swimming lessons until the October half term. May I just remind you that swimming will take place on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays and that boys should wear close fitting swimming trunks and girls an all in one swim suit.

### **Water Bottles**

As part of our drive towards healthier living, we would like to encourage all children to bring in a named water bottle every day. It is really important that children do not get dehydrated during the day and having their own water bottle readily accessible really helps to combat this.

### **Healthy Snacks**

Please remember as a healthy school we are keen to encourage healthy choices at break and at lunchtime. We would like as many children as possible to replace crisps and chocolate biscuits with fruit or a healthy snack. Toast provides a healthy and filling snack to take the children through to lunchtime. All children in KS1 also receive free fruit.

### **Parentpay**

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for getting on board with Parentpay, our new lunchtime meal system. It has been working very well and children are enjoying making their lunch choices in class each morning, Please support your child with their choices by sharing the school menu with them at home. Many thanks.

Please also remember that if your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, please make sure it contains healthy choices and no peanut butter or other nut products that may spark allergies.

### **Paperwork**

Thank you for the quick return on lots of the paperwork sent out already this term. Please send in any consent forms or slips to ensure your child is able to go on trips and local walks etc.

### **Uniform**

Please make sure all uniform is clearly labelled including PE kit. Sports kit must to be in school every day! We cannot be held responsible for lost kit/uniform that is not labelled!!

### **Application for a Secondary School Place**

For children in Year 6, please remember that applications for a place at secondary school need to be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> October**. You need to apply online to [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionline) to ensure that your child gets their place.

### **Year 6 SATs**

Please can I also remind the parents of children in Year 6 that your children will sit their SATs in the week beginning the **8<sup>th</sup> May**. Please do not book holidays for this week and ensure that during this week, you try to make appointments either for the afternoon or for after school.

### **Homework**

Homework is a very important part of school life. It is always related to something your child is doing in school and it therefore gives you the opportunity to share in their

immediate learning. Please help your child to complete their homework by setting aside some time where he/she can have quiet time to concentrate and complete the work. Reading every night either with you or independently is so important to your child and makes an enormous difference to the development of their reading skills. Please also help your child (where appropriate) to learn their spellings and/or key words and to learn e.g. number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and times tables.

### Photographs

A date for your diaries - Tempest will be here in school from 8.30am on the 31<sup>st</sup> October (first Monday after half term) to take photographs of individuals and family groups. So if you want your younger pre-school children to be photographed with your school age child please come in to school between 8.30 and 9.00.

### Late Arrivals

It is very important that your child arrives at school at 8.50 ready to come into school and start their morning routine. Please ensure that you get your child to school for this time as late arrivals do disrupt the class settling and being ready to learn. Thank you for your consideration.

### Absences

We have had a very high number of absences in the first month of term. Please try to ensure your child is in school unless there is very good reason. Our absences are tracked by the Education Welfare Officer very carefully and we need to make sure that we keep attendance at a very high level.

Many thanks to those of you who are using our absence messaging service on the school answer phone. Please continue to phone the school before 8.30am, as the absences are entered into the register before it goes down to class.

### School Website

We are currently transforming our website! Please keep checking to see updates about what is happening in school!

### Half Term Holiday

Please note that we are having a **2 week half term holiday** this October. School closes at 3.15pm on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October and opens again at 8.50am on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 8.50am.

### Trading time!

We have some comfy red chairs from our staffroom that we are giving away to good homes if anyone wants them. In return, if anyone has an electronic keyboard that isn't getting played anymore at home, we would love one more to add to our collection for our very popular keyboard club - thank you in advance!

### Harvest

Our Harvest festival will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. As well as harvesting from our own allotment, we would also like to harvest from the school community and would love all children to bring in non-perishables during the last week of term to donate to Plymouth Foodbank to support others in the local community. Further information will be given about this in the next few weeks.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event
<b>September</b>	
26.9.16	Parents Evening
27.9.16	Parents Evening
29.9.16	Eco- Council residential - Start Bay
30.9.16	Eco-Council Residential - Start Bay
<b>October</b>	
7.10.16	National Day
10.10.16	G&T Maths Day @ Marldon School
12.10.16	USF KS2 Tag Rugby Festival
13.10.16	Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight check
13.10.16	Harvest Festival
14.10.16	Half term holiday starts at 3.15pm
31.10.16	School Starts at 8.50am
31.10.16	Film Week
31.10.16	Tempest photos 8.30 Family/pre-school shots; individual photos
<b>November</b>	
2.11.16	Work Showing
10.11.16	Eucharist 10am School Hall. All welcome
10.11.16	New Parent's Open Evening 3.15-6pm
17.11.16	Phonics Workshop - FS/KS1 Parents 3.30pm / 6pm
18.11.16	Enterprise Day - Children in Need
<b>December</b>	
5.12.16	Nativity Performance in School 1.45pm
6.12.16	Nativity Performance in St Mary's Church 1.45pm
6.12.16	Nativity Performance in School 6pm
8.12.16	Grandparents Afternoon
12.12.16	Parents Evening
13.12.16	Parents Evening
14.12.16	Christmas Dinner Day
15.12.16	Carol Service - St Marys Church 11am
16.12.16	School finishes for Christmas holiday at 3.15pm
<b>January</b>	
3.1.16	School opens at 8.50am

These are just the dates that we know about at the moment. I will update the diary in each newsletter to add in additional activities and events.

Kind regards  
Mrs Claire Webb (Head of School)