



Elliott's Hill, Brixton, Plymouth, PL8 2AG
Tel: 01752 880436 Fax: 01752 882323
E-mail: admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

25th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St Mary's! The children have settled in really well and are showing fantastic learning behaviours.

Thank you for ensuring your child is in the playground at 8.55am and coming in independently. Even though this can be a struggle when your child first starts school, we would like to thank you for your support as we know it helps the children settle faster into the school routine when they come into the classroom on their own.

The weather at this time of year is unpredictable. Please make sure your child attends school every day with a jumper, coat and a Summer/Winter hat (unless their coat has a hood). The weather can be deceiving with a mix of sunshine but as the children spend a great deal of time outside for their learning, it is important they are warm and dry. Please make sure each individual item is labelled - if it can be put down or taken off, it must be labelled. This includes their shoes. The children are regularly changing between their shoes and slippers and, given their shoes look similar, the children are struggling to identify their own.

To support your child's learning, we would ask that you read with your child as often as possible. Your child has now come home with a reading book. Could you please write any comments about your child's reading in each evening in your child's reading record and return it to school each morning. We do appreciate all your support in helping your child with their reading. It really does make a difference.

You may have heard the children talking about our fantastic house points. House points are given out to children as a reward. We have four house groups: Mothecombe, Bigbury, Wembury and Bovisand. At the end of the week, we celebrate the house that has gained the most house points in our whole school Celebration Assembly. There will also be two Stars of the Week, Lunchtime VIPs and a Handy Hand Writer. These will be children who have shown themselves to be a great learner over the week or demonstrated positive behaviours. At the end of each half term, the team with the most house points will be allowed to wear their own clothes on a selected day. You will be notified of this in advance.

There is a bulletin board on the shed in the playground. This board will provide useful reminders and information to parents. Please check this for updated information.

Our topic this term revolves around "Who am I?" The children will look at similarities and differences between themselves and others. We will also focus on Brixton and the immediate environment.

We will commence phonics in a few weeks. The children will learn the sound for the written letter and begin to recognise these within words. They will use these sounds to begin to read and write. In maths, we will focus on place value; counting up and back to 20, placing the numbers in order and counting an irregular arrangement. We will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, creating and describing patterns. We attach our overview for the Autumn term which we hope you will find useful. The overview shows you the different areas of learning we will cover this term.

If for any reason you feel the need to see your child's teacher, please feel free to do so. Although it is difficult to talk at length in the morning, we are always happy to arrange a time after school, when the teacher can give you more time. Any messages can be passed via your child's reading record; just write in the next row in the book.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Nikki Clarke