



## Newsletter – July 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

In my June newsletter I mentioned the 'mixed bag' of weather that we'd had. Now I can safely say that since then it's been more like the summer weather we all like to see. We're very close to the end of another school year and so my final newsletter of the year will contain the usual news and information, whilst also reflecting on the year. I arrived at St. Mary's in February and I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone. Although we are all looking forward to a well-earned break, I will also be keen to get back to school in September and begin the process of working alongside everyone again.

The year has had many highlights, (with some still to come), including various sporting events at Ivybridge Community College, the Harvest Festival, Children In Need Day, fire safety talks, Y6 trip to Buckfast Abbey, Christmas and the Christmas performance, ECO Summit day with the USF schools, Film Week, Arts Week, Worship with 'Open The Book' team, World Book Day, Time Tables Rock Stars (including our Rock Star Day), plastic free day, Storyteller in KS1, Sports Day, Easter celebrations, Swimming lessons, Y2 camp, Y4 residential to Escot, Reception trip to Stover, Y6 residential to Skern Lodge, Race for Life, etc...etc... Our diary is always full!

### **A Thank You**

I would like to extend a huge 'Thank You' to all of the staff and governors of St. Mary's for their support this year. They are great team and work so well together for the benefit of every child. I cannot praise them enough for their commitment and hard work.

Thank you and goodbye to Mrs. Clarke, who leaves us to take up a new role at Ipplepen Primary in September. She has shown great dedication to the children and the school and we appreciate all the effort that she has put in to the continued development of the school. We wish her good luck in her new role but also know that, as part of the federation, we will continue to work with her in the coming years.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of you. Your support is always appreciated. Don't forget that we are always happy to respond to your questions so please feel free to contact us if you have anything you would like to ask.

The final thank you has to go to the brilliant children of St. Mary's. I have loved working with them since February half term and I have really enjoyed getting to know them all. They have demonstrated all of our Christian Values, (perseverance, compassion, justice, courage and friendship), but an outstanding feature that I have noticed is their togetherness. No matter what age they are, the children at St. Mary's enjoy being together and they certainly support and look out for each other. That is a real strength of what I have noticed in my first few months here. Well done to all of them.

### **Reception Class**

I'd like to say well done to all of our Reception children. The first year in school can sometimes be a bit daunting, especially at the start, but all of them have done really well this year and you can see lots of progress and also a big growth in self-confidence. We know that they will support the new Reception children when they begin in September.

## Year 6 leavers

How many of you can remember leaving primary school? I have vague recollections myself, (which is a sign that I'm getting too old), but one thing I do remember is the fact that it was such an important time in my life. I may not be able to remember too much about leaving primary but I certainly remember a lot about my first day at secondary school because I was ready for the new challenge. It was new, it was exciting and I was ready to move on. Our Y6 children are ready too. They have been a brilliant group and together, they will have made many memories which I hope they will hold onto as they leave us. It's an exciting time and it is also a nervous time for many, but we know that they will do well and we know that we are sending on eleven well prepared children who will give it their best. We wish them all the luck in the world. Good luck and goodbye to all of our Y6.

## Attendance

Here are the results for the year. Well done to everyone. As you will see on the table below, all year groups have an improving trend of attendance at the moment. Thank you for your support in this matter. Let's keep it going.

Year Group	% attendance rate for this academic year to June 2019	% attendance rate for this academic year	Trend	Trophy Winners
R	95.57%	95.89%	↑	KS1 winners <b>Year 2</b>
1	96.37%	96.49%	↑	
2	96.57%	96.78%	↑	
3	96.56%	96.80%	↑	KS2 winners <b>Year 3</b>
4	96.18%	96.26%	↑	
5	96.53%	96.76%	↑	
6	95.41%	95.54%	↑	

## Class Structure

Here is a reminder of the class structure for next year.

Rosen	Miss Lee (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) Mrs. Berry (Thursday & Friday)
Potter	Mrs. Kay
Dahl	Miss Roberts-Wise
Morpurgo	Miss Kinning

## Y4 Residential

What a pleasure it was to go to Escot on the Y4 residential trip last week. The children were amazing and Miss Roberts, Mrs. Williams and myself, were all really proud of the way the children took part. There were many highlights to the trip including, getting lost in the maze, seeing the animals in the park (including the wolves and owls and the lynx), sliding down the drop slide, making shelters and learning fire lighting skills. However, the most fun was clearly the swamp walk. Every child laughed their way to getting completely covered in mud which was lovely to see. Well done too to Miss Roberts and Mrs. Williams too for venturing up to their necks in the mud!

## Parent Support Group

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our second group meeting recently. As I stated at the meeting, I am keen to build up a group of parents / carers to help with the organisation and running of school events to raise funds for the school. There were so many good ideas shared at the meeting that we will timetable into the

coming year so that we can raise vital funds to support the development of resources as well as providing valuable opportunities for the children.

### **School Disco – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.**

We will be holding an end of term disco on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July between 4.00 – 5.30pm. The cost of the disco will be £2 and children can enter through the hall doors from the playground.

**All children will need to be collected at the end of the disco.**

**For children in KS2 only - if you give your child permission to walk home from the disco, please complete the slip which was attached to the original disco letter.**

**A second copy of this slip can be found at the end of this newsletter.**

To collect your child(ren), please enter through the main school entrance. You will then be able to collect from the hall and leave through the hall fire exit. This will hopefully avoid traffic jams at what could be a busy time.

### **Before and After School Provision**

Thank you for the interest that was shown in setting up before and after school provision at St. Mary's. We have been looking carefully at what we can offer to help with this and fully appreciate that there are families that would benefit from additional provision at the start and end of the day.

**We have now been able to organise both levels of provision for September.**

#### **Morning Provision -**

This will be called the '*Early Birds Club*' and this will be a daily early drop off opportunity, ideal for parents/carers who need to get to work earlier. Please note that this is **NOT** a breakfast club and children will need to have had their breakfast before they arrive.

The details:

- Arrival time – 8.15am through the main entrance. At the end of the club, children will join their classes for morning registration.
- The cost will be £2.50 per child per day. This will need to be booked and paid in advance through ParentPay.
- The first day for the club will be **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

#### **After School Provision –**

The details:

- Places must be pre-booked through ParentPay. There will be 8 places available per day.
- Children will be registered at 3.15pm. The club will run from 3.15 - 5.15pm.
- The cost will be £6 per child per day. This will need to be paid in advance.
- The first day of the club will be **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

Thank you again for your interest in both of these clubs and thank you for your patience whilst we have been looking into the organisation. We hope that both will be successful additions to what we can offer at school.

### **Dates for May bank holiday 2020**

The dates for the next two school years are now up on the school website, so please check carefully if you are looking ahead for any family holidays. Just a reminder that the May Day Bank Holiday date has been changed from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May as the government have confirmed this as a bank holiday for VE Day celebration.

**Dates**

JULY	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	School Disco (4.00-5.30pm)
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 residential to Skern Lodge
Thursday 25th	Leavers Service
Thursday 25th	End of term.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First day of Autumn Term

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Regards

Adrian Clements  
Head of School

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Child's name ..... Class .....

I give my child permission to walk home alone from the school disco on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm.

Signed ..... Date .....