

Newsletter – January 2020

I think we are all looking forward to seeing a little more sunshine at school. The weather hasn't been the best in recent weeks but it is what we expect at this time of year so we shouldn't complain really. Thank you for making sure that your children have their coats with them every day.



It is amazing to think that I have almost completed my first year at St. Mary's. The time has flown by and it has been a very enjoyable place to work. Thank you for your part in that. I am looking forward to continuing to work here in Brixton and helping the school to progress and develop into the future.

Mufti Days

Thank you for your support with the Mufti Day for Australia. This was a great idea in response to the story that has been dominating the news, so thank you to Xavi, Reuben and Daisy for the idea in support of the Australian Red Cross.



Attendance

We continue to monitor the attendance rates across the school closely. Here are the current year group comparisons for the year so far.

Year group	% attendance
Reception	97.4%
1	96.52%
2	98.62%
3	98.49%
4	95.87%
5	96.0%
6	95.94%

Thank you for making sure that your child attends school regularly. It really does make a difference. If your child is unwell we also appreciate the call to let us know. Following recent feedback about the time at which parents have been able to leave a message in the morning, we have decided to alter the time from which you can leave a message. You will now be able to leave a message from 6.00am in the morning. We hope that this alteration will make it easier for some families.

Eco Council

Our Eco Council recently spent the day at Ipplpen Primary School with the other Eco Groups from the USF schools. The Eco Summit was focussed on recycling and waste management and the team came back to school with some good ideas that we will look to share with everyone else.



Whilst there, the Eco Group wrote an eco-pledge that we will all try to work towards. Here it is...



'We pledge to keep our school in an eco-friendly condition by turning electric things off when we are not using them and recycling all plastic.'

Staff News

Apart from the obvious news about the school having an amazing staff who work incredibly hard for every child, I'd like to say a huge welcome and well done to Miss Kelly for the way she has launched into working with Potter Class since taking over from Mrs. Kay. She has fitted in so well with everyone in school and we look forward to working with her this year.

We've also welcomed Mrs. Howlett back to the staff this term. She is joining us again for the coming months to provide additional support across the school which is fantastic news for everyone.

Rights Respecting

 <p>RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS unicef UNITED KINGDOM BRONZE - RIGHTS COMMITTED</p>	<p><u>Article 28</u> The right to an education, that is free, in which children's dignity and rights are respected.</p>
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Dahl Class

Well done to Dahl Class for the work that they have been doing on the local area as part of their Learning Challenge Curriculum (LCC) topic work. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm coming through as they learn more about the history of the local area. Despite the odd rain shower, it was also good to see them heading out for a local walk too, looking at the village and the clues to the past.



Morning Routine – 8.50am bell time

The new morning routine is working really well and there is a huge difference to the start of the day. Outside, we are seeing a smoother more relaxed start to the day. Inside we are seeing much less cloakroom congestion and therefore a more positive and relaxed start to the day for everyone. It is also making the whole period much more efficient.

The other knock on effect is the creation of more morning parking space outside the school gates as people have the chance to leave slightly earlier. Thank you for your support with this.

Any Questions?



Can I take this opportunity to remind you that all of the class teachers are happy to talk through any questions or concerns that you have about your child. I am also more than happy to help with any questions or suggestions that you have, but the people best placed to answer any questions directly related to the children and their learning, are the class teachers themselves. They may not be able to speak to you immediately because of their teaching commitments, but they will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible. If you ever need to speak to a teacher, please contact the school office or let me know on the playground in the morning and I will happily pass on any message.

Thank you.

Swimming update

We continue to look into the options for the swimming pool at school. It is a resource that we are fortunate to have but there isn't an easy solution to find. We will



continue to look at all options before we can make any further decisions.

In the meantime, we need to consider the best way forward for the swimming lessons for this year. As last year we will again use a local pool for a series of swimming lessons for the children in KS2 in the summer term. Further information will come out nearer the time.

New Books



We have recently invested in new library books to support the on-going reading development in school. We have invested in books to support phonics in KS1, new colour book band books, as well as new books for the Accelerated Reader scheme in school. As soon as they have been sorted they will be added to the library for the children to start reading.

Numbots

We have also invested in an additional online maths package to support early maths skills. This scheme comes from the same people who created TT Rock Stars and it is called 'Numbots'. We will be introducing the children in KS1 to this new scheme soon so that they can start accessing this package at school and also at home. It is a great stepping stone towards TT Rockstars which focusses on times tables.



Dates

Mon 10 th Jan	NSPCC ' <i>Speak Out, Stay Safe</i> ' visit
Mon 17th – Friday 21st Feb HALF TERM	
Thurs 5 th March	World Book Day

As always, we will inform you of other dates and events as the details become finalised.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards

Adrian Clements

Head of School