



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

# Welcome Back

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term at St Mary's. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a very healthy and Happy New Year. A warm welcome to Miss Kelly who is joining us this term in Potter Class. As we welcome Miss Kelly, we also give our love and best wishes to Mrs. Kay who is starting her maternity leave at the end of next week. We wish her and Mr. Kay all the best as they begin this new and exciting chapter in their lives.

## School Meals

As we start the new term, please can you ensure that there is credit on your ParentPay account to cover any school meal taken. The school cannot carry debts and the recovery of outstanding amounts can take up a lot of administration time. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

Free School Meals - Mrs. Rundle sent home an email on 8<sup>th</sup> January regarding Free School Meals. If you think your circumstances may have changed and you might be entitled to Free School Meals please take the time to read that email and do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any further questions.

## Uniform

All the children have come back to school looking very smart. Can I please remind you that school shoes are part of our uniform policy and must be worn to school. These can be black/brown sensible shoes, not trainers. At break and lunchtimes children can wear trainers for running around if they wish.

Please can I ask for your support in encouraging your children to wear small, not novelty and preferably school coloured hair bows and bands. It is also essential that children with hair longer than their shoulders have it tied up. This will help in the prevention of head lice.

Please make sure that all items are also named. Having things named, (including lunchboxes and water bottles), saves a lot of time especially at the end of the school day.

Can we also ask that, due to the unpredictable weather that we get at this time of year, you make sure that your children come to school with their coat.

## Application for Primary School

Applications opened on 15<sup>th</sup> November for admission into Primary School in September 2020 and you can apply online at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline).



## Rights Respecting

### Article 24

The right to have a safe and happy environment

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. Applications must be in by 15th January 2020 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice. Please make sure you apply for 3 schools of your choice. If you only apply for one school and do not get a place, your child will be placed in a school where there is a space, which may not be a school you would choose.

### Start Of The Day

Just a reminder that we will now be ringing the morning bell at 8.50am in the morning. The idea behind this is to reduce cloakroom congestion and to help make the start of the day more efficient. This doesn't mean that the children are late if they arrive a little later, as the doors will be locked as normal at 9.00am. If you arrive after the bell but before 9.00am, your children can walk into school through their normal entrance where hopefully it will be less crowded. Anyone arriving after 9.00am will need to go through the main office as before.

### Authorised Absence

Please can I reiterate to you that any request for absence can only be authorised if there are very clear exceptional circumstances. Please check the calendar on our website to ensure you book holidays during the school holiday period. If you are booking further in advance, please don't hesitate to contact the office to check if we can confirm dates.

Can I also remind the parents of children in Year 6 that your children will sit their SATs in the week beginning the 11th May 2020. Please could we ask that you do not make appointments and that you do not take any holiday during that week.

### Illness

If you know that your child won't be in school because of ill health, can you please try to phone by 8.30am. This allows us to make sure that a message can be passed on to the class teacher before the start of the day.

### Winning Houses

We have 2 winning houses that will be entitled to have a non-uniform day in recognition of all of their hard work last term. Bovisand and Mothercombe houses may have a non-uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Well done to everyone in those houses for all their effort and hard work.

### Clubs

A new list of clubs run by the school staff will be sent home early next week and places for these can be booked through ParentPay.

For the clubs run by Achieve4All please book through their website

<https://achieve4all.co.uk/>

Regards,

Adrian Clements  
Head of School



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