

## Newsletter – June 2020

### A Thank you...



The last couple of months have been very strange ones for everyone across the whole country and indeed, around the world. We have all had to learn a new way of 'being' including developing new behaviours and lifestyles that are designed to keep everyone safe. Sometimes it has been very challenging because of all of the uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic, and sometimes it has been really enjoyable and I know that many people have tried new things, learnt new skills, or have just taken a bit more time to do things together as families that perhaps normal busy lives wouldn't allow.

Whatever the last few weeks have meant to you, we at St. Mary's cannot thank you enough for your continued support and appreciation. Your positive comments and feedback to the staff when they have contacted you, have been a real source of encouragement to them all and I wanted to thank you for that.

A huge 'Well Done' to all of you at home too. The home learning has been a success and we have been really pleased with the engagement and commitment you and your children have shown to doing as much of it as you can each week. We fully appreciate that all families are different, facing different circumstances and challenges, but the response has been so positive.

And my staff...what can I say? If you ever need to see an example of commitment to the job, then ALL of them at St. Mary's have displayed that in abundance. Everyone has gone 'above and beyond', never once

showing any reluctance to volunteer or be there when asked. We are all lucky to have this team here at St. Mary's.

Now we are in the next phase of re-opening and last week we had the return to school of certain year groups. This has gone very well. The children have adapted quickly to the new routines and procedures and this is great to see. How the situation develops in the coming weeks for other year groups will be carefully monitored by the whole USF and we will, of course, keep you fully informed of developments.

### Reports

You should have received your child's school report via email. The reports this year were slightly different to normal due to the current circumstances. I know that some of you may have already discussed anything in the report with the class teacher when they have been contacting you, but if you do have any questions that you would like to ask, please contact the office and we will ensure that the class teacher responds as soon as possible.

### Staffing News

It is the time of year when usually the questions begin about staffing for the coming school year. There will be some changes for September and here they are.



Firstly, I would like to let you know that Miss Roberts will be leaving St. Mary's at the end of this term. Since she started here at St. Mary's, Miss Roberts has been a really valuable member of the team. She will be missed by all of the staff and I know that every child in school will be sad to see her go too. Miss Roberts is going 'home'. She comes from Dorset and she and her partner have decided to move back there to make their



home and continue their careers. I know that the children in her new class will be very lucky to have her.

In addition to this news, Miss Roberts also walked into my office recently to reveal the very exciting news that she is expecting her first child. Of course, everyone is delighted for her although social distancing means that 'air hugs' have been the way to pass on our congratulations. We wish Chloe and Patrick all the best as they begin this very exciting new chapter in their lives – new home, new jobs, new baby!!! WOW!!!



To protect Miss Roberts at this very tricky time, she will be working from home for the remainder of the term. She will be supporting all of the other teachers with responding to online learning, making phonecalls, etc and so don't be surprised if you are contacted by her, or she comments on your child's online work instead of your child's class teacher. This is where we see the strength of the St. Mary's team!

Other staff news... Mrs. Kay will be returning to school at the October half term holiday after the birth of her son. We are very excited about welcoming her back although when she returns, she will only be working for four days every week. Until the October half term, Mrs. Howlett will be Mrs. Kay's maternity cover. We are so pleased that Mrs. Howlett has agreed to take on the role as we know how liked she is by the children as well as all of the staff.



Here is the structure for 2020/21

Class	Year group	Teachers
Rosen	Reception	Miss Lee & Mrs. Berry
Potter	Y1 & 2	Miss Kelly
Dahl (until Oct half term)	Y3 & 4	Mrs. Howlett & Mrs. Berry
Dahl (from October half term)	Y3 & 4	Mrs. Kay & Mrs. Berry
Morpurgo	Y5 & 6	Miss Kinning

### School Environment

Apologies that we are having to keep the school grounds locked at all times. I know that the school grounds are a valuable play space in the village, but with the current situation, we hope that you will appreciate the need to keep the grounds closed. This doesn't include the school field so, outside of school hours, that is still available for you to come and use for your exercise or relaxation.

Thank you again to Mr. Cunningham and family for the very kind donation of new planters and plants for the school grounds. They look amazing! So good in fact, I had a go at making some for my own garden and although they are no way as good as the ones here, I have to say I'm quite pleased with myself. It's been a good time, like I said earlier, for us all to try a new skill.

Mr. Geach our school caretaker, has also started painting the Early Years playground fence and that is looking great too.

### RNLI

At this time of year, we usually have a visit by the RNLI life guards to help the children learn more about water safety. This year we won't be having that visit but the RNLI have asked us to share their website address with you. The website has lots of information including age related activities and resources.



Please take the time to look through these resources with your children so that should you visit the beaches this summer, they will be aware of what the RNLI flags mean as well as being more aware of how to keep safe at the seaside.



## Lifeboats

<https://rnli.org/>

### St. Mary's Church

Rev Trev and the church are doing their bit during the current lockdown restrictions and I would like to thank them for that. Rev Trev is producing some online assemblies for us and I know there are plans from other church members to do the same. The first one was posted on Google Classroom this week, so I hope you managed to watch it. If you didn't see it, you can find it by going back through you class page message stream.



Rev Trev's first assembly was all about 'courage' and he told the story of Daniel and the Lions. Well done for Rev Trev for having the courage to record these online assemblies!

### And finally...

I'd just like to reiterate my genuine thanks to everyone in school for their incredible commitment and hard work, to everyone at home for their support and hard work, and to ever single child for being **AMAZING** through these uncertain times.

# STAY SAFE

All the best,

Adrian Clements

Head of School