

January 2021

St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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Upcoming Events

February 1

Mental Health Week – 'Express Yourself'

February 12

Last day of half term

February 22

First day of new half term

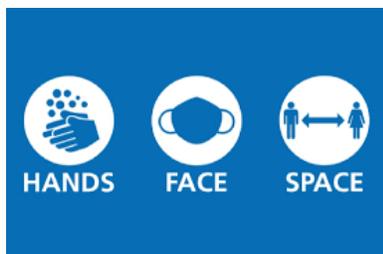
Happy New Year!

If you're anything like me, it seems like the whole of Christmas and New Year is a very long way away in the past. So much has happened since we came back to school and now we find ourselves in the middle of the latest national lockdown.

These are difficult times for everyone. We appreciate everyone's continued support and hard work. Don't forget that we are here to help so if you have any issues, don't hesitate to make contact with us at school.

Lockdown

We all returned to school as planned but after one day in school, it became clear that we about to see some changes to our lives again. The children in Morpurgo Class were even geared up for their Bikeability sessions that we had booked and some of them had completed the first day of the scheme.



Important Announcement

For anyone who needs to continue to use the out of hours provision, please make sure that you now book through ParentPay, **7 days in advance**. For urgent bookings within 7 days, please continue to phone the office and confirm that we have space available before paying on ParentPay and completing a booking form.

Thank you

Remote Learning – here are some top tips....

- Ensure you establish a daily routine at home and use the daily timetable each class has set to keep on top of their daily learning.
- Encourage breaks through the day and get some fresh air or exercise.
- Take an interest in your child's learning and support them whenever they need a helping hand. Make sure you monitor their online activity.
- Most importantly, look after your child's wellbeing and mental health. Remote learning means that they won't get the same social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Our Live lessons will try to support your child and give them opportunity to connect with their classmates.

We fully appreciate that these are difficult times, and we know that home learning is not the easiest job, especially if you are having to balance your own working from home.

Just remember.....you are doing an amazing job!

Remote Learning Policy

You will have received a letter from Mr. Harding recently outlining our policy for remote learning which includes some guidance on expectations. Here is the section for parents/carers and children.

- Remote learning sessions will only take place on school provided staff laptops.
- Children can access remote learning on any suitable device.
- While some live lesson inputs may be recorded by school for the purpose of providing these to pupils who cannot attend live, no images of children will be recorded by school.
- Live sessions must not be recorded by parents.
- Parents will be made aware that pupils in school will be seen during live sessions.
- Register must be taken of children who attend each session.
- Expectations recapped at the start of each live session.
- Children's full name will not be shown on screen.
- No one other than the pupil participating in the live session should be on screen.

Children should:

- Ensure their microphone will need to be muted when not talking.
- Used blurred backgrounds where possible.
- Make sure they are ready for learning.
- Wear appropriate clothes.
- Look at the screen when someone is speaking and sit still.
- Ask questions and share by raising their hands or clicking on the hands up icon and waiting for their teacher to say their name so they can un-mute their microphone and speak.
- Only use the chat bar for learning comment or questions about the learning.
- Make sure they follow the same learning rules that you would at school.

Parents should:

- Ensure children are logged on to the live session in plenty of time. The details (link to Google Meeting) of the lesson will be available just before the start of each session on Google Classroom. Please do not share these details.
- Understand that access to the meeting will be locked. This means no one who has not received the invite can access the meeting.
- Ensure their child is appropriately dressed and working in an appropriate environment and consider what can be seen on screen e.g. appropriate backgrounds.
- Know that they are welcome to listen into the lesson and support but should not be in view.

Technical help and support

It is very likely that you may occasionally experience technical issues with remote learning so please let us know if this happens and we will happily help you where we can.

Assemblies

I have really enjoyed our online assemblies on a Friday afternoon and thank you to all of the children for logging in to take part. It is so important that we all engage with each other in the best ways that we can and feel that community spirit that is so evident at St. Mary's.

A4A support

Thanks to our friends at Achieve4All for their continued support with physical exercise. They have provided some weekly challenges that I will post every week during the current lockdown. These challenges will give you ideas to help ensure that everyone is doing as much as they can to keep physically and mentally fit.

Other online resources

I will hopefully have some more information very soon about reading at home which will include access to online books.

You may be aware of the vast range of online learning resources that are available on the internet.

If you need some additional ideas of what you can use to support your children in their home learning, start with the list below.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Children's Mental Health Week 1st - 7th Feb 2021

Mental health is a big issue for many people at the moment and we are very keen to continue the work we are already doing in school to support children's mental health.



More information will follow regarding Children's Mental Health Week which is in the first week of February.

I am attaching a leaflet with further information and tips for parents & carers to talk to children about mental health. Please take the time to read the leaflet.

Term Dates

To see the term dates for the rest of this academic year as well as for the next school year (2021-22), see the school website.

<https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/parent-zone/calendar/>

More Important News

Plastic Lids



Here is the picture that has been made from all of the plastic lids that we collected last term. It was a great competition so thank you to all of the children for their ideas. In the end we combined the ideas from Oscar in Y2 and Grace in Y6 who both received the highest number of votes from the 'Plastic Police', our Eco Group in school.

Regards,

Adrian Clements

Head of School

Rights Respecting



Article 13 (freedom of expression)

Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Christian Value

Our Christian Value for the this half term is...

Justice

Psalm 106:3

'Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.'

'Jonah and the Whale' is a great story in the Bible that helps to illustrate the value of Justice.