

July 2021

# St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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## Upcoming Events

### September 6

Non-Pupil Day

### September 7

Start of the new term.

As we enter the final few days of the school year, we all want to thank everyone single one of you for your continued support over what has been a testing year for many of us. Stay safe! We look forward to seeing you in September.

The Brixton Team

## Covid-19



It is really unfortunate that we needed to close the school site because of a positive Covid-19 case in school. Your support has been warmly appreciated.

The children did an amazing job with their online learning using Google Classroom and deserve a lot of credit for that.

## Bee Friendly Brixton

Thank you to everyone who entered the 'Bee Friendly Brixton' sign designing competition. The Parish Council enjoyed looking through all of the entries. We hope to announce the winning design(s) very soon.



To coincide with that competition, we now have a zoned area in the grounds where we are also allowing the grass and flowers to grow to create a 'Bee Friendly space. Here's hoping that the space becomes a beautiful haven for wildlife in the future.

## Before and After School Club

For anyone who needs to continue to use the before and after school clubs, please make sure that you book through ParentPay, **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

## Social Media

Whilst social media can be a good way for children and teenagers to stay in touch with friends, it can also be unsafe. Children using social media may also be at greater risk of online abuse or online bullying. An NSPCC survey showed that children turning to social media because they're feeling lonely or have poor mental health are at higher risk of being groomed online. Talking to your child about what they're doing or sharing online, can help you to understand any risks and keep them safe. Net Aware also has advice on popular apps, games and social media sites, including TikTok, Snapchat and Facebook. The picture below is a useful guide to the age restrictions for social media platforms - some that you may find surprising.

- Establish the ground rules for your child to use social media and messaging platforms and monitor their usage. For example: discourage sending messages after a certain time so that the children learn and maintain personal boundaries when using such platforms.
- Encourage your child to report anything that they may find upsetting, worrying or inappropriate to a trusted adult.

### Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

## App Warning



Monkey is a social chatting app that uses live streaming to randomly connect you with other users. By using the app, you can collect bananas which can be used to buy merchandise. Recently, there have been safeguarding alerts about the app exposing children to harmful and inappropriate content.

Whilst users are encouraged to report any harmful content they may witness, the content changes very quickly allowing little or no time to report it but still exposes children to images and content that may be harmful. More information can be found here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/monkey/>

## **Lotta the Therapy Dog**

It was lovely to welcome one of the new USF dogs to St. Mary's. Lotta came for her first visit along with Mr. Harding and she was an instant success. Lotta made lots of new friends on her visit and enjoyed being followed around the playground by everyone. Clearly the morning made her a bit tired out too!



## **Attendance**

The school's attendance rate is currently just over 97% and we aim to keep it above this level throughout the year. A reminder however, that we cannot authorise holidays or time away from school during term time. This includes absences that we are seeing at the moment where parents / carers are deciding to keep their children away from school due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in the area and country as a whole. These count as unauthorised absences and the local authority may issue penalty fines when unauthorised absences exceed a certain level. Should you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## **Sports Day**



Since the last newsletter we have had our Sports Day in school which was enjoyed by all of the children and adults taking part. Thank you to the Achieve4All coaches who supported the event and helped with the organization on the day, as well as the staff for making sure everyone had a great time. Thankfully, the weather forecast was spot on and the predicted sunshine arrived at exactly the right time.

Well done to all of the amazing athletes who took part in the wonderful event this year. We hope to be able to get back to a more normal sports day next year where we can welcome parents and carers to come and join the fun.

## **Year 2 Camp**

Last Friday saw our Year 2 children taking part in a sleepover at school. The camp was originally timetabled for the week before and we were looking forward to welcoming the Y2's from St. Catherine's to join us but following the school closure, a reserve date had to be found.

The camp was a great success. Children enjoyed the brilliant sunny weather as well as a lovely meal prepared by Mrs. Wall in the kitchen. They also did some crafting sessions as well as having a lovely hot chocolate and movie night. The perfect ingredients to a sleepover with friends.

Thanks to Miss Kelly for the preparations. We know that the Y2's had a lovely time, even if they were a bit tired on Saturday morning!

## Mental Health and Well-Being

It is still really important to try and find opportunities to have mindful moments throughout the day. Action for Happiness have released this month's calendar for Jump Back Up July. There are some lovely ideas on the calendar for ways that we can stay mentally mindful and healthy. .



## And Finally....

Can I please ask everyone to help reduce the number of cars that we have outside of the school gates every day. With more cars there is more risk to everyone at the busy times of the day. While we have the warmer weather now and hopefully into the new term in September, can we ask that more of you consider the option to walk to school, or even park further away and walk the rest of the way to the school gates, as a way of reducing the stress on the space that we do have for cars. Whilst we understand that this isn't possible for everyone, even a slight reduction in traffic will be a great help. Not only will this reduce the parking stress, it is also a great way to get a bit of exercise and enjoy a nice chat with your children or even other people who are walking to school.

Regards,

*Adrian Clements*

Head of School