

September 2022



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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OUR VISION:

'Working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

It's been really good to welcome everyone back to St. Mary's for a new and exciting academic year. We've really enjoyed meeting all of our new Reception children and, as always, it's really great to see the relationships that develop between the new children and the rest of the school.

All of our children have settled into the routines of a new academic year brilliantly, and they have demonstrated wonderful manners and learning attitudes so far. We have a variety of things coming up this term, so please read on and save the dates for your diaries!

Keep up to date on the latest things that we get up to at St. Mary's by reading our school and class blogs on our website and social media pages.

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

With best wishes

The Brixton Team



Upcoming Events

October 6

School photographer – individual and family groups

October 10

#HelloYellow – Mental Health Awareness

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 **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.

REMEMBER - Friday afternoon bookings are no longer be available. Thank you

Curriculum Information

You will have already received information about your child's learning for this term. Please remember that this information can also be accessed on the school website. We would also like to thank those of you who were able to attend the 'meet the teacher' sessions last week and hope that you found these useful.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask, please don't forget that you can contact the school at any time and arrange to speak with the class teachers.

Clubs

Clubs are now up and running and we appreciate all of the interest shown in booking places. Unfortunately, some of the clubs are already full and so if you would like your child to be added to a waiting list, you just need to contact the school office.

Can we also remind you to let us know if your child isn't going to attend an after school club as we take a register at the start of each session. Also, if for some reason, your child decides that they don't want to come to their club anymore, can you also let us know so that we can offer the space to another child.

Rights Respecting



You will probably have seen the huge banner attached to the school fence on Steer Point Road which states that we have now achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting Silver Award. We'd like to congratulate Mrs. Kay and all of her Rights Respecting Team for their hard work in leading the school towards this achievement. Well done to all of the children in school for their contribution to making our school a place where we value and respect the rights of everyone in our school, our neighbourhood and also the wider world.

Rights Respecting Focus -

ARTICLE 29 - Every child has the right to an education which develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full

#Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day Monday 10th October



World Mental Health Day is on Monday 10th October. As a school we actively promote positive mental health and well-being through our curriculum and general ethos in school. This year we also have a group of children who have been trained as Mental Health Champions and they will be able to support their peers in remembering ways to keep a positive mind-set.

In recent years, we have also supported the Young Minds charity by fund raising and using the charity as a valuable resource to support further learning for all of the children in school. This year we are again going to take part in the #HelloYellow day which raises awareness on World Mental Health Day. Children may wear as much yellow as they would like to on Monday 10th October to continue our work and support for mental health awareness. Why not add some yellow to your outfit on the day too!

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Queen Elizabeth II

Thank you for all of the positive comments that you have given the school about the work that we produced and shared on the school fence. It has been clear that all of the pictures and messages have been enjoyed by many of you and also the wider Brixton community.

“I felt quite emotional especially when I turned them (pictures) over and read the messages.

Such sincere comments from our village children.

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful school. Well done children and staff”.

“How wonderful driving out of Venn Drive to see the school gate and fence with messages and pictures of our late Queen. Well done children and teachers”.

We are in the process of purchasing a tree and a plaque to put in the school grounds as a reminder of Queen Elizabeth and the service that she gave to our country over many years.

Plants and Bulbs

Just a quick reminder that we are currently asking for any donations of plants and bulbs for our school grounds. See the attached poster for more information about what we need.

These will be used around the school to improve the look of some of our garden areas, as you may have already noticed at the front of the school, if you have used the main entrance at all this year.

Uniform

It is great to see how smart the children are looking as they have returned for a new academic year. Please ensure that your child's uniform is in line with our uniform policy which can be found on our school website.

Don't forget that plain tracksuits can be worn on PE days, especially as the weather gets colder, but can we please ask that normal school jumpers and cardigans are worn on all of the days when they don't have PE.

Healthy Snacks

Can we please remind you to send your child into school with a healthy snack of **ONLY** fruit or vegetables for break time. Snacks are provided for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

We do have children in school who have food allergies and it is important to ensure that there is no risk to them, whilst also promoting healthy snacks as a way to get a top up of energy for everyone. Thank you

The Brixton Feoffee Trust



Everyone is aware that there is a well-documented 'cost of living crisis' at the moment across the whole country and we appreciate how difficult things can become for families at different times of the year, for all sorts of different reasons.

The Brixton Feoffee Trust is available to anyone in genuine need who cannot obtain financial assistance from other sources. Support can be given to individuals who live or who have lived in the Parish of Brixton. Support can also be given to students of the school to support with an aspect of school life. Finally, support can also be given to people living in the Parish, who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. This can be given as a grant to support the buying of food and basic essentials.

If you would like any more information or wish to make an application to the Brixton Feoffee Trust, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees directly on 01752 880262 or email brixtonfeoffeetrust@googlemail.com.

More information can also be found via the website - <https://www.brixtondevon.co.uk/>

All applications are confidential and will not be shared by the Brixton Feoffee Trust with any other parties.

Olio



You may have heard of Olio. Some of you may already use Olio. If you don't know anything about it, you may be interested in finding out more from their website. Here is a review of what they are all about from their website.

OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. For your convenience, OLIO can also be used for non-food household items too.

OLIO is super easy! To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up.

To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging.

Here at OLIO we believe that small actions can lead to big change. Collectively – one rescued cupcake, carrot or bottle of lotion at a time – we can build a more sustainable future where our most precious resources are shared, not thrown away. Join today!

For more information visit

<https://olioex.com/>

Attendance



Planned Absence: Please remember that you must notify school of any period of planned absence. This needs to be done through collecting and completing an S2 request form from the school office.

At this time, can I also remind you that we are only able to authorise requests if there are ‘exceptional circumstances.’ Devon County Council’s advice is that we must be extremely cautious about approving any requests if a pupil’s education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

It is important that these forms are handed in with adequate time to respond as any unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected.

Can I also please remind you about the importance of good attendance across the school year. As I have stated in previous newsletters, there are clearly occasions when your child shouldn’t be in school due to illness and we appreciate you keeping us informed of this by ringing the school before 8.30am and leaving a message on the attendance answer phone. Please don’t simply leave a message with myself or the duty teacher of the playground in the morning, as these messages may not get to the office before the register has been checked in the morning.

Important Dates

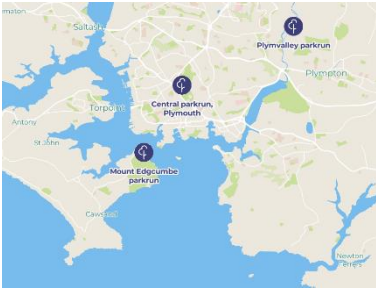
Here are some dates to add to your diary.

Thursday 6 th October	School photographer
Monday 10 th October	#HelloYellow Day in support of World Mental Health Day
Monday 10 th October	Y6 Junior Life Skills
Friday 14 th October	Final day of Autumn 1 term (2 week half term)
Monday 31 st October	First day of Autumn 2 term

Further information about dates and upcoming events will be published once they have been finalised.



Many of you will have heard of the Saturday Parkrun. After doing these myself over the last few years I can say that the 5km run every Saturday morning at 9.00am, makes me feel ready for the weekend as well as getting me up and active. It's also a great way to connect with people.



I'm certain that some of you already take part at the local runs around the Plymouth area. If you don't, why not look it up as an activity for you and the family to do.

It's free! You turn up.....you run or walk the 5km route, and then you go home and wait for your result. After a few weeks, you will also feel the benefit of this regular exercise.

Through the month of October, the organisers of Parkrun are trying to encourage more people to take up the challenge by introducing Parkwalk. As the name suggests, this new initiative wants to get people out there on a Saturday morning to walk the Parkwalk. This may then lead to a Parkrun one day!

For more information why not check out the Parkrun website :

<https://blog.parkrun.com/uk/2022/09/14/introducing-parkwalk-at-parkrun/>

And finally ... School Photographer

On Thursday 6th October the school photographer will be in school to take the children's individual photographs and also family group photos. The photographer arrives before the start of the school day so if you would like a family group photo that includes a younger sibling please arrive and join the queue from 8.15am.

Adrian Clements

Head of School