

October 2022



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

Elliott's Hill, Brixton, Devon, PL8 2AG

T: 01752 880436

Email: admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

OUR VISION:

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

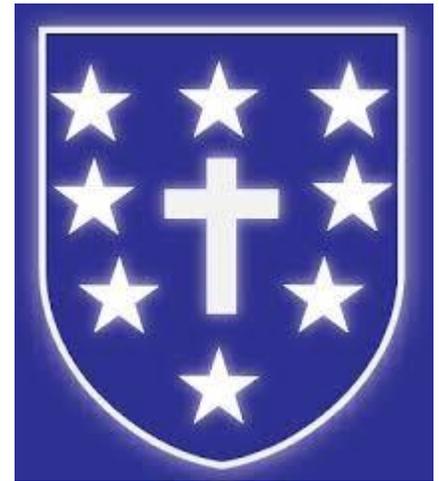


Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 29 - Every child has the right to an education which develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full.

We've already had a very busy first half term since the start of school back in September and it is set to continue as we begin the second half of the Autumn Term.

Clubs

A quick reminder that the final week for teacher led clubs will be week beginning 21st November. Please note that this does not include the Achieve4All sports clubs on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.



Upcoming Events

November 14

Anti-Bullying Week

November 21

'Walk to School' Week

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

Anti-Bullying Week – week beginning Monday 14th November



We will be having a whole school focus on bullying as part of Anti-Bullying Week which begins on Monday 14th November. In school, we use **STOP** as a way to reinforce the key message about what bullying is and what to do if it is happening to you or you see it happening to someone else.

For your information, this is what 'STOP' stands for:

	What is bullying?	What we should do?
S	Several	Start
T	Times	Telling
O	On	Other
P	Purpose	People

Monday 14th November - Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness. We are all different and this needs to be celebrated.

There is no pressure on the children. All you have to do to take part is to wear odd socks to school, it couldn't be simpler!

Children In Need – Friday 18th November

As we do every year, we will be supporting the BBC's Children in Need campaign again this year. The event will take place on Friday 18th November, which happens to be the last day of Anti-Bullying Week. We will be joining in with the 'SPOTacular' efforts to support this amazing national fund raiser.



There will be a 'SPOTacular' Bake Sale at the end of the day on Friday 18th November so please send in any baked donations in the morning. Can we please ask for a spotty theme for all the baking contributions.

Why not also bring a spare pound or two to have a go at the new ‘Bear Pong’ game. The person with the highest score at the end of the day will win a superb spotty cake made by our fantastic in school baker – Mrs. Harris. Her cakes are the stuff of legend and well worth winning!

On Friday 18th, children will be invited to wear non-uniform for the day in exchange for a donation through our JustGiving page. We’d love to see as many spots as possible in what the children choose to wear.

Donations for Children and Need can be made through our **Just Giving page**.

Follow the link below to make your contribution online.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brixtonstmaryschildreninneed2022>

Why not also get ‘Get Walking’ for Children In Need?



Joe Wicks is involved in the Children in Need fund raising again this year. Supported by parkrun, the brand new campaign ‘Walk With Joe’ will see Joe Wicks helping get families and local communities across the UK walking, talking and feeling great – all in support of BBC Children in Need. For the first two weekends in November (5/6 and 12/13), CIN are asking people to head to their nearest free parkrun event and walk the route with family and friends.

Joe will be leading walks at four different parkrun locations across the UK. Even though Joe isn’t visiting any of our local Parkrun events in the Plymouth area, you can head to any local parkrun event and walk the route. Visit the parkrun website for further information about local venues and how to take part.

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

Walk to School Week – week beginning 21st November

To support and promote the Joe Wicks Children in Need walking campaign, we would like to hold a ‘Walk to School Week’ in the following week.



This will run from Monday 21st – Friday 25th November. Children will have a ‘Power Up! Five-day walking challenge’ booklet which shares a daily challenge for children to think about. These all relate to the benefits of walking to school. They will receive a special bookmark and they will also collect a sticker for every day during the challenge.

If you live within walking distance, why not walk, cycle or scooter to school.

If you live too far away and have to use the car to come to school, why not find a parking space a short distance away that will allow you to walk the rest of the way to school. Walking even a shorter distance helps to set you up for the day as well as giving an opportunity for a nice chat before school or even to meet with friends to finish your journey to school together. It also has the knock-on effect of reducing parking around the school which benefits everyone in keeping them safe.

Harvest Festival

We hope that you enjoyed the Harvest Festival service at St. Mary's Church if you were able to be there. The children did a really great job and it was wonderful to see everyone, from the youngest children who started school in September, to the oldest Y6 who were celebrating their last St. Mary's Harvest, all taking part so confidently.

Forest School



It has long been an ambition of the school to explore the opportunity of developing 'Forest School' as part of our curriculum at St. Mary's. I am pleased to be able to announce that we are in the final stages of organising this provision. The aim would be to start these sessions soon as possible so that every child has the opportunity to take part in sessions through the year. For those of you who may not be familiar with what Forest School is, here is a brief overview.

Forest School is a unique educational experience and process that offers children the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences.

Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weather conditions.

Children will work with a variety tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.



Thanks to the support from the Brixton Feoffee Trust, we will be able to provide a session for each class on a two-week rota. The sessions will take place within the school grounds, supported by a trained Forest School provider, and it is hoped that we will be able to grow and develop this provision as the year progresses so that we can sustain it for the future.

School Attendance - Every School Day Counts!

In order for our pupils to achieve their very best it is of paramount importance that their attendance is good. Every lesson really does count for your child and catching up on lost time from school can be really difficult.

Good attendance is linked to achievement, better relationships with other children and overall better behaviour. Often, the reason that children are absent from school is due to illness and it is important that you contact the school on every day of your child's absence due to ill health. Please contact the school office and leave a message before 8.30am so that our registers can be updated.



We understand that sometimes absence cannot be avoided.

Punctuality – It is SO important that the children arrive to school on time, ready and willing to learn. The gates open at 8.45am. Any child who arrives after the gates are locked at 9.00am needs to be signed in at the main school reception.

Being late for school reduces learning time and can impact on your child being able to settle calmly into the school day. Children can be upset at entering a busy classroom after everyone else and missing the initial morning instructions means that they are having to play 'catch-up' for the rest of the morning.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss approximately 3 days of learning in a year.

15 minutes late every day, equate to approximately 2 weeks of missed learning each year.

Car Park

Can we again, remind you about not parking in the school car park. There have been a couple of instances recently where staff arriving for work have been unable to park in the car park due to parents / carers using the car park to wait for the gates to be opened in the morning. As you will appreciate, we need to make sure all staff are able to get into school for that start of the school day.

This request doesn't apply to parents / carers using the main entrance to drop children at the Before School Club or collect from the After School Club, as the car park is less busy at these times.

Your help with this will be greatly appreciated.

Christian Value

"IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW SLOWLY YOU GO SO LONG AS YOU DO NOT STOP." CONFUCIUS



Our Christian Value focus for the coming half term will be 'Perseverance'.

A good story from the Bible that we use to illustrate this value, is 'The Lost Sheep'.

The parable of the lost sheep (Matthew 18: 10–14)

And finally ... Remembrance



As we always do, we will join with the nation in an act of Remembrance on Friday 11th November to remember all of the people who have given their lives in wars around the world.

We have a selection of poppies and remembrance items from the Royal British Legion, on sale between now and the 11th November.

Important Dates

Here are some of the mentioned dates to add to your diary.

Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Monday 14 th November	Start of Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day
Friday 18 th November	Children In Need Day
Monday 21 st November	Walk to School Week

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School