

November 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.

It's the end of November and the fun and excitement of the Christmas period is just around the corner. You can sense it everywhere. Like many of you at home, we have started to dig out the boxes of decorations. I'm sure the Christmas music playlists have been downloaded and it won't be long before we've all heard those classic hits too many times already.

In school, this time of year is always a lovely one to be part of but it is also a very exhausting time for everyone. Thank you to all of you for your continued help and support and we look forward to sharing some special moments with you before the end of term.



Upcoming Events

December 9

Christmas Event – starts at 3.15pm

December 16

Final day of term

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 available. Thank you

Anti-Bullying Week – week beginning Monday 14th November



Anti-Bullying Week was a really good focus for everyone in school. By starting the week with 'Odd Socks Day' we could really encourage the children to remember that we are all different and that these differences need to be celebrated.

The key message of 'Reach Out' was the important message for the week, encouraging children to speak up and reach out for help if they need it.

Children In Need – Friday 18th November

What an amazing 'SPOTacular' effort made by everyone this year. With all of your online contributions to our JustGiving page alongside the money raised at the amazing event organized by Morpurgo Class, we managed to raise around **£540**. This is way more than we have raised in recent years and we can't thank you enough for coming along and joining in.



Thanks for all of the cake donations too. The bake sale was really good and as always, raised a large amount of money all by itself!

Walk to School Week – week beginning 21st November

Despite the weather being against us for most of November, 'Walk to School Week' was another good focus for everyone this term. There was a noticeable reduction of cars parked around the school gates on Steer Point Road during the morning drop off, so thank you for that.



We hope that lots of you may look to walking more, particularly as the weather improves during the Spring Term. Remember that walking to school is a great way to reduce pollution, increase safety around the school by reducing the number of cars and also it is a good way to improve your physical and mental health. It's also just a good opportunity to have a chat with each other, which is always a good thing!

Music Project with Kip

Key Stage 2 have been involved in some music sessions with Kip Pratt, who has been coming into school every Tuesday to work with both classes. The children have really enjoyed their sessions which has been

lovely to see and this hard work ended this week, with a concert for parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along and listen to the performances.

Bikeability



Well done to Morpurgo Class for completing their Bikeability training recently. The children showed real determination and perseverance through some fairly poor weather at times, including gales, rain and even a hail shower, which caught everyone out!

Cultural Champion Visit

We hope that your children came home and told you about their Cultural Champion session with Avtar Panesar. Avtar is a member of the Cultural Champions team who visit schools to help children learn more about different world cultures. He came to school to work alongside all of the classes and this included story-telling, dressing up, looking at artefacts and images and also some really good dancing.

To find out more, follow the link to the website below and look at the 'Cultural Champions' tab.

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



Namaste! My name is Avtar - I was born in India and raised in London. My love of Indian music and dance began as I grew up listening to Bhangra music legends and watching iconic Bollywood films in the Hindi language (from colourful happy sing-a-longs to tragic melodramas).

As a cultural champion I can offer sessions about different aspects of Indian life – music, dance, festivals, food, language, religion and costume. These can be tailored to meet the needs of individual schools and promote understanding of diversity and cohesion.

Remembrance service



Thank you for all of your contributions and support towards this years Poppy Appeal. We don't yet know how much we collected but we will share that with you when we have been informed.

A huge thank you to the members of the Ethos Group in school who took part in the Remembrance service at St. Mary's Church by reading the names from the village memorial. Here is a message from Rev Trev following that service:

"It was really good to have St Mary's School represented at our Remembrance Service yesterday. Please could you pass on my thanks together with those of the congregation, to the girls (and their parents and carers for accompanying them). They read out the names of those on our War Memorial with such clarity and confidence. I was very proud of them. They were credit to St Mary's School. It is so important for the Church and our village that our youngsters are able and willing to participate in this way."

Forest School



I just want to say how pleased we are with the way that the children have launched into their first Forest School sessions this term. The sessions have been really well received and we look forward to the continuation of these into the Spring Term. Keep an eye on the Class Blog pages on the website to see more.

A huge thank you to Rhys Moloney from Achieve4All who is our Forest School Instructor.

Mental Health

Anxiety is a normal emotion that all us humans can feel, at different times in our lives. Feeling anxious is a perfectly natural and common reaction to some situations. However, when anxiety begins to affect our lives and is a daily or constant feeling, this can be really upsetting and difficult.

NHS's "Every Mind Matters." offers an email support programme which offers step by step help. If you are interested, you can sign up for this at <https://anxiety.ecm-registration.nhs.uk/>

Since the pandemic, our children have also experienced anxiety at higher than usual levels.

Dr Lucy Russell from the organisation "They are the Future" talks about ways to calm your child when they are feeling anxious, angry or stressed.

You can find some information about this at

<https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/calmangry-panicky-child/>



Application for Primary School Places:



Applications for places opened on 15th November, for admission into Primary School in September 2023 and you can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019.

Applications must be in by 15th January 2023 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice. Please make sure you apply for 3 schools of your choice. If you only apply for one school and do not get a place, your child will be placed in a school where there is a space, which may not be a school you would choose.

And finally ... Christmas Dates

Here is a reminder of upcoming dates for the diary...

Friday 2 nd December	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottle and chocolate contributions for our Christmas Event stalls.
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper non-uniform day in exchange for cake donations for the after-school event. From 3.15pm Christmas Event – stalls, refreshments, Bingo and carol singing.
Monday 12 th December	1.30pm Nativity performance
Tuesday 13 th December	1.30pm Nativity performance 6.00pm Nativity performance
Wed 14 th December	Christmas Dinner Children may wear their Christmas jumpers to school instead of their normal school jumper.
Thurs 15 th December	Church Service starting at 2.00pm.
Friday 16 th December	Last day of term
Christmas Holiday	
Tuesday 3 rd January	Spring Term begins

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School