

January 2023



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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OUR VISION:

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



Rights Respecting Focus -
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.

Since returning to school at the start of term, we have continued to be very busy at St. Mary's and the time is flying by. It's hard to think that New Year was only a few weeks ago and that the half way point of the year, (February half term), is not too far away either.

Weather

It has been quite cold, and sometimes wet, in recent weeks and so can we please ask you to make sure that your children come to school ready for colder and wetter days. Getting outside at playtimes is a great way to



Upcoming Events

February 6

Children's Mental Health Week

February 10

Last day of the half 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 be available. Thank you

stay fresh for the rest of the day and so even if the weather isn't perfect, we will be going outside to let off steam, have a brain break and enjoy some social time with friends.

Water Bottles



It is important that your child comes to school every day with a bottle of fresh water. We are aware that some children still come to school without a drink.

Drinking fresh water not only helps their physical health, but it is also an important part of supporting their mental well-being.

Can we also remind you that playtime snacks need to be healthy fruit or veg snacks, not sweet treats.

Packed Lunches



We'd like to share some useful ideas for packed lunches from the NHS 'Better Health Healthier Families' website. We always want children to have a healthy packed lunch to fuel up for the afternoon and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Please take the time to follow the link, especially if you sometimes find it hard to think of new ideas to make packed lunches more interesting. The site has recipe ideas as well as top tips.

Thank you for your support with this.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Absence Messages - 01752 880436



Thank you to everyone who remembers to ring through to the school office if your child is going to be absent from school. If you know that your child isn't going to be in school because they are unwell, please ring the office before 8.30am and leave a message. This allows us to make note in the registers before the start of the day.

Whilst I appreciate that sometimes I am given messages about absences at the school gate in the morning, can we also ask you to ring the office, as the registers are often completed before I've even managed to get back to the office in the morning.

British Sign Language (BSL)



We are always happy to welcome new children to St. Mary's when we have a space, and recently we have been joined by two brothers in Potter Class. One of the boys is profoundly deaf and so we are going to take the opportunity to learn a new skill. Starting any school can be an anxious time for anyone, but when communication isn't as straight forward as it could be, it's important that we all put in the effort to help

out. The children in Potter Class will be learning simple sign language over time and we will be looking to do the same as a whole school. Your children will hopefully pick up some different sign language that they can share with you too.

As a starting point, here is a link to a youtube clip which introduces children to 50 simple, everyday signs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtAioR83qzU&t=86s&ab_channel=CommandingHands

Uniform

School jumpers and cardigans – just to remind you that we have been very successful in selling our stock of pre-loved school jumpers and cardigans, all with the school logo on, but the stock is running out. We are happy to continue to offer these donated jumpers for £1 each, which is excellent value. If you would like to purchase one of these items, please let us know including the size you would like. We cannot guarantee that we have every size available but we will do our best.

Can we also remind you that full school uniform is required unless it is your child's PE day.

Children's Mental Health Week : 6th-12th February



Children's mental health week is running from 6th- 12th February and this year the theme is **Let's Connect**.

Human beings are hard wired to connect with each other and this connection is vital for our survival and wellbeing.

People with positive connections to friends, family and others often have better mental health than those who are less well connected.

When our need for rewarding connections are not met, or we feel we are not understood by others, we can feel lonely and isolated. This is why it is important for our mental health, that we connect with others in healthy and meaningful ways.

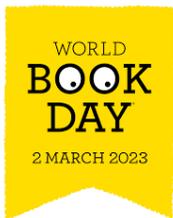
Our mental health champions will be promoting the importance of this throughout the week and we will be holding a let's connect assembly and doing activities in class to focus on 'connection'.

In addition, we will be creating a beautiful display of children's hands to show that we are all linked together through our school community.

If you would like to talk to your child about children's mental health week and making connections, please follow this link for some lovely ideas.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families>

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March



The annual celebration of books and reading is coming up again soon. We will of course let you know more about this event nearer the time but for now, put the date in your diary. We know that it will be another fun day in school as it always is!

Forest School – January 2023

The Forest School provision will continue in January and we will start again in week 1. See the table below for the rota for the coming half term.

Date	Classes
Wednesday 1 st February	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 8 th February	Dahl and Morpurgo
Half Term	
Wednesday 22 nd Feb	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 1 st March	Morpurgo
Wednesday 8 th March	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 15 th March	Dahl and Morpurgo
Wednesday 22 nd March	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 29 th March	Dahl and Morpurgo

Please note: Dahl Class won't have Forest School on Wednesday 1st March as this is a swimming day.

BRIXTON COMPOSTERS - Free Food Offer



Many people are facing a very difficult time over this winter period and the Composters want to help our local community with a 'free food offer' at the Farm Shop Cafe (just inside the entrance to South West Composting Ltd, on the Red Lion Hill road). This offer will be available until the end of March.

The cafe is open on weekdays from 8.00am until 1.00pm, with the early start providing a useful pre-school breakfast

opportunity. Just roll up, choose from the special menu and enjoy!

The offer is open to anyone living in Brixton and you are welcome to come as often as you like. The aim is to help local residents and so you will be asked to provide the first line of your address.

Diary Dates

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

Wb 6 th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th Feb	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 20 th Feb	Morpurgo swimming
Monday 27 th Feb	Dahl swimming
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Friday 17 th March	Comic Relief Day

And finally...

We hope that you have seen through local advertising and social media, information about the support that is available to everyone. If you haven't, please take the time to look through the information attached which details the support available within our local community.

Alternatively, find out more from the Brixton Village Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School