

March 2023



# St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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## OUR VISION:

**'Within the love of God, we work together, grow 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.

The Spring Term has been an action-packed one which we have tried to fill with lots of activities and amazing opportunities for children throughout the school. We hope that the children have been enjoying the different events this half term, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you for supporting them.

For more information, don't forget to check the school website.

[www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk)



## Upcoming Events

### March 31

Easter Service 11.00am

### April 17

Summer Term begins

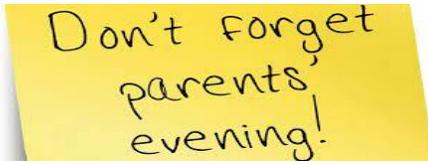
## Before and After School Club

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**

## Parents Evenings



Parents Evenings are taking place in the first week after the Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing you and talking about the progress your child is making in school.

Please note that we are maintaining these meetings as online appointments as doing them in this way makes the evenings a lot more efficient for everyone and avoids people waiting around for the start of their appointment in school. We have noticed that online appointments also increase the number of people who engage with these important meetings and we generally get fewer missed appointments.



However, please remember that should you have a specific question or something to discuss with the class teacher, or if your timed appointment doesn't give time to finish your conversation, we are always happy to find a convenient time to discuss your child's progress. Simply contact the school office so that we can make sure that we can find time to meet you and talk.

## Christian Values



In school we have 5 Christian Values that we focus on throughout the year. These are **friendship, perseverance, compassion, justice** and **courage**. You can find these with an associated Bible story, on our school website under the 'Church School' tab.

<https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/our-christian-values/>

Some of our older children recently reviewed these values and we would also like to get your opinion too.

Attached to this newsletter is a list of the same values that the children looked at and we would appreciate it if you could take the time to look through this list and indicate which ones you think we should focus on in school. Although they are all important values, we'd like you to indicate your top 5 or 6.

You can either print out this list and send it in with your 5 or 6 values clearly ticked or you can simply email your list to [admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk), stating your 5 or 6 top choices and any other comment you would like to make about the values you have chosen. If you are emailing in a list please put '**Christian Values**' as the subject of the message.

Can we please ask for all responses by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April**.

Thank you

## Attendance



The school's attendance rate is currently above 95% Thank you for your continued support with this.

If your child is unwell and not attending school, please make sure that you contact the school office and leave a message by 8:30am to report the reason for their absence. In line with our safeguarding policies and protocols, if we have not heard from a parent, we will contact you to check the reason for your child's absence. Please also remember that, in line with local authority policy, we are unable to authorise absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Coronation Event



As you will be aware, the coronation of King Charles III is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May and there will be a Bank Holiday weekend to mark the occasion. Brixton Village is organizing some events to celebrate this national event and these will be published through the usual village sources.

We are working alongside the village groups to be part of this planning process and just to remind you that we will be holding our own special event on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, the day before the coronation itself. After Easter, we will share more details about our plans for this special event.

## Forest School

Please note that we have changed the rota slightly so that Forest School doesn't clash with the upcoming Y6 SAT's test week.

Date	Classes
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Dahl and Morpurgo
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Dahl and Morpurgo
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Rosen and Potter

## A message from Alix Harding, our USF Mental Health Lead

As a federation, we believe that teaching children to understand and talk about their mental health is crucial in promoting their future wellbeing. Our mental health champions have been promoting this message in our school assemblies.

Sometimes, as parents, we worry about talking to our children about mental health for fear of making things worse, or we worry how our child will react. However, having regular chats about how our minds are doing can be really beneficial and gives your child the message that their mental health is as important as their

physical. We would ask how our child's cut knee was healing so why not ask what's going on for them in their minds too?

Here are some links to useful information on talking to your child about their mental health.

[www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/)

[www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/](http://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/)

### Comic Relief – March 17<sup>th</sup> 2023



Thank you for all of the support for Comic Relief again this year. In total we managed to raise £178 through our Just Giving page so thank you for your generous contributions to this worthwhile charity.

### And finally... Diary Dates

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

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Holiday	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term begins.
Wb Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Evenings
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation Bank Holiday
Wb Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Have a very Happy Easter.

*Adrian Clements*

Head of School