

July 2023



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:

*'Within the love of God, working together, growing
together for all to flourish.'*



Rights Respecting Focus –

Article 23 A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

Here is the final newsletter of the year. We always like to say a huge well done to everyone at this time of the year and whether it's been their first year at St. Mary's, their last one, or even one of the year groups somewhere in the middle, everyone has worked very hard, persevered, and shown a really positive approach towards life at St. Mary's this year.

We are proud of every single child!



Upcoming Events

July 24

Summer Fun Event

July 25

Last 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 **BEFORE 11am** 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**

Thank you too for your continued support throughout the year. It means a lot to us. We will look forward to welcoming you back to school in September for the start of a new school year.

Residentials

This year we had a lovely Y2 camp with the children of St. Catherine's. It was their turn to host us and we want to say a huge thank you to all of them and the staff for welcoming us and looking after us so well. The children did lots of physical activities and games with our friends from Achieve4All as well as listening to a visiting storyteller before bedtime. They also made new friends and this was lovely to see alongside the excitement of staying somewhere new for the night.



As well as the Y2 overnight camp, our Y6 children went to Skern Lodge which is one of our favourite locations for adventure filled residentials. Skern Lodge is in Appledore in North Devon and we joined with all of the other Y6 children from across the federation to do things like high ropes, surfing, river kayaking, swimming, tunnels, wide games, etc.... The journey home afterwards was quite a quiet trip which was a good indication that they had had lots of fun and had done loads of new and exciting activities.



Art Competition



As part of Local Studies Week earlier this term, we did some artwork on a 'Rivers' theme as part of a local competition. St. Mary's is one of seven schools in the Yealm Valley and we have been invited to enter an art competition as part of the Yem Organisation, (Yealm Estuary to Moor), not only raise awareness of the importance of having clean and safe rivers, but also to learn more about our local river and the habitats that it supports.

The children in all of the classes did some amazing pieces of art but only six were able to be chosen to enter the competition between the local schools as part of the Yealmpton Show on July 26th. This is the day after we break up so if you would like to start the holiday with a local show, this could be the one for you as well as giving you the opportunity to see the work done by our competition winners. It's now fingers crossed time to see if our children's work wins the overall competition between the other school after the judging at the show itself.

Here are the names of the winners from St. Mary's:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Early Years and KS1	Pria-Dora	Asia	River
KS2	George	Alannah	Bertie

Classes

Before the end of term, children will have the opportunity to meet with their new class teacher for September. As a reminder, here is the structure for the classes next year.

Rosen	Mrs. Berry
Potter	Miss Kelly
Dahl	Mrs. Kay (M, T, Th, & F) & Mrs. Howlett (W)
Morpurgo	Miss Kinning

Summer Fun

On Monday 24th July, we are going to hold a Summer Fun afternoon. This will be an opportunity for children, parents/carers, and school staff, to get together to celebrate the end of the school year by having some fun to end the year and also put some money in the school fund.

Next year, we would like to add more fund-raising events to our school calendar and for this to happen we are going to be asking for a larger group of volunteers who might be able to help with the organizing of such events.



We are always grateful for all volunteers who are able to come in to school to help but if we can possibly have a larger group, it helps to spread out the jobs and allow for more to happen. If you think that you would be able to offer some time to help with school events, even if it can't be for every event, please let us know so that we can add you to our list.

Thank you.

Attendance

Attendance Ladder		
How close is your child to 100%?		
0 Days off school	100%	perfection!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent!
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned

Thank you to everyone for your understanding about the importance of good school attendance. 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.

Holiday's taken during term time are something we would ask you to avoid. All holiday requests will be classed as unauthorised absence unless there is an exceptional reason for the requested time off, which

you must make us aware of by completing an 'S2' form which is available from the school office. A missed period can make a huge difference because vital building blocks of learning from one day often feed into the continued learning for the next day/week and this therefore impacts on progress made.

Can I also remind you that children need to be at school on time. The gates are open from 8.45am - 9.00am. The register is taken at 9.00am, including the dinner register and lateness can impact on this important part of the day. If you know that your child is going to be late for whatever reason, please make sure you contact the office to let us know the reason, (for example a medical appointment), and in your message can you also indicate what meal option they will require so that the office and kitchen can co-ordinate orders as soon as possible.

Goodbye and Good Luck



As I have mentioned previously, this year we say goodbye to two members of staff who have been part of the St. Mary's team for a long time. Both of them were part of the school community when I arrived over 4 years ago and so I want to say a personal thanks for their hard work and support, not only to me and the staff team, but to all of the children in the school.

We know that both Miss Lee and Mrs. Molland will be missed by everyone at school but we wish them both well as they leave us this term. We look forward to welcoming them back for visits when they can make it.

Online Safety – a message from Karen West (Federation Support Officer)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We recently held an online parents meeting for all Y5/6 parents and carers across the federation to help learn more about online safety and what you can do as parents to keep your children safe when accessing the internet. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the meeting last week. I hope you found it useful.

The meeting was originally aimed at parents of children in Years 5 and 6. However, those who attended felt it was a good idea for any parent or carer to watch.

The link below takes you to a recording of the session which was led by Jon Galling, the Senior Education Safeguarding Lead for Devon. The link will remain available until at least the end of the Autumn term (Dec 23).

<https://youtu.be/5hyaimPgPGc>

I must stress that this session is for parents and is not suitable for children to watch due to some of the content.

Some of the films (Kayleigh's Love Story / Charley says..) will not play during the recording, however, links to them have been placed in the description box below the film.

There are references to several websites made during the session and the links to these are below.

<https://pegi.info/>

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

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/>

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/>

I hope you find it useful. If you have any questions following the session, please let your Head of School know and they will pass them to me. I will then get an answer back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Karen West

Federation Support Officer

Royal Navy



You may have seen the post on our Facebook page thanking the Royal Navy for their help in the school grounds this week.

<https://www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys>

What they have achieved in the two days they have been with us is amazing. Thanks to Warrant Officer Simon Howlett, (also the husband of Mrs. Howlett in school), for organizing the help and for getting all of them working hard as a team. Inspirational stuff that makes a huge difference to our school.





St. Mary's Staff



All I can say is 'thank you'! It's a simple phrase that we use so often, but to all of my staff, I'd like to say that I really appreciate your support, your friendship, your attention to detail, your time (often beyond the call of duty), your patience, your perseverance, your drive and your hard work. St. Mary's is a product of many elements that all work together for the common good, and you are all vital cogs in the machinery that drives this school forward every single day. Make sure you take some time to recharge this summer as it's what you all deserve. **Thank you!**

Y6 Leavers

One of the saddest things we have to do every year is to say goodbye to our Y6 children. We know that they are ready to leave and have new adventures, but after watching them grow and become the individuals that they are today, it does make us sad to say farewell but it also makes us all feel very proud of 'who' they have become over the years at St. Mary's. We've all been in their position. We know the excitement and the anxiety that they will inevitably face as they approach the start of the new school year in September, but we also know that they will go forward and do themselves proud.



We wish every one of them, all the best.

Some of you will also be ending your time with us as your children move on.

Thank you for all of your support over the years too!

And finally... Diary Dates

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

Monday 24 th July	Summer Fun event
Tuesday 25 th July	Last day of term
Summer Holiday	
Tuesday 5 th September	First day of the Autumn Term

Term Dates



The term dates for the rest of the year are available through the school website.

<https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/parent-zone/calendar/>

From the whole of the Brixton team, have a
lovely Summer holiday.

Adrian Clements

Head of School