

June 2023



# St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

T: 01752 880436

Email: [admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk](http://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 latest newsletter for you to read. With lots of things going on in and around school we hope that you take the time to read it carefully so that you have all the dates in the diary for the rest of this term.

Please remember that we are always here if you have any questions that you would like to ask us.



## Upcoming Events

**July 12**

Reserve Sports Day

**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 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**

## School Reports



Your child's annual school report will be coming home soon. The report includes comments from the class teacher as well as your child.

We appreciate your feedback too so please take the time to complete the reply slip that will be with the report.

## Photographs

We recently had our class photos taken and you will have received an order form. If you would like to order a copy of the class photo, please complete the online order in time to ensure that the prints will be delivered to school free of charge. To take advantage of the free delivery to school please order by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. As soon as we get them, we will send them home. Late orders will need to be delivered to your home address rather than school which will include an additional postage cost at the point of ordering.



I am always pleased to get positive feedback from visitors in school and it was lovely to hear the photographer complimenting the children in Morpurgo Class for their behaviour and attitude. Apparently, they were the best she has worked with all year.

## Cricket Festival Y4



A huge well done to the children in Y4 for taking part so well in the Achieve4All Cricket Festival recently. The children went to Paignton Cricket Club for a fun filled day where they were able to play games to improve their cricket skills, before taking part in some small games against other teams. The children did really well on what was quite a warm day and it was clear from all of the smiles, that they had lots of fun.

Maybe we have some players who will try and win the 'Ashes' for England in the future?

## Residentials

It's the time of year where we take some of the children on residential visits, and this year we are taking the children in Y2 and Y6 on their overnight adventures.

Last year we hosted the Y2's from St. Catherine's here at school for the Year 2 camp and this year they are returning the favour and hosting our Year 2's. As always, it promises to be lots of fun and hopefully, lots of sleep!!!

Y6 are going to Skern Lodge again which is one of our favourite locations for adventure filled residential. Skern Lodge is in Appledore in North Devon and we all go there to join 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 only guarantee is fun and tiredness by the end of the visit.

### Local Study Week



Last week was our local study week where the children had the opportunity to learn more about the area of the country that we live in. This included two brilliant visits to Wembury Beach to see the rock pools and learn more about the sealife we can see literally on our doorstep. We also had a visit from the RNLI who shared important information about keeping safe when spending time at the seaside. With so many lovely beaches around our locality, knowledge of ways of keeping safe is vital for all of our children to know.



We have also been doing 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. We will continue to work alongside the project, in the coming months which will include tree planting projects and other things. For more information on this important local project follow the link below.

[www.yemcorridor.com](http://www.yemcorridor.com)

### Summer Fun

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July, we are going to hold a Summer Fun afternoon. More details will come soon, but this is going to be an opportunity for children, parents/carers, and school staff, to get together to celebrate the end of the school year by having some games and activities as well as refreshments on sale, 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

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.

## New Caretaker

We would like to welcome a new member of staff to St. Mary's. After a long period of searching, we finally have a new school caretaker who will be working with us every day. Welcome to Dave Cuthbertson who has joined us in the last month. It is also important to thank Rumen Boshilov, who is one of the caretaking staff from the federation who has been supporting the school whilst we have been looking to fill the position. He has been amazing and we are all grateful to him for his time, hard work and friendship.

## Sun Safety

It's been very warm in recent weeks. Although we hope that the good weather continues, please make sure to keep 'Sun Safety' in mind. As a reminder, here are some top tips to help us keep everyone safe this summer.

Children may have their own sun cream in school but can we remind you that it must be named and they must NOT share it with anyone. This is purely to prevent any unwanted skin reactions.



## Goodbye and Good Luck



As well as welcoming new staff to the school, this time of the school year occasionally brings a 'goodbye' too. 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.

## And finally... Diary Dates

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

5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Skern Lodge Residential
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Camp
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fun event
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term

As always, thank you for your continued support.

*Adrian Clements*

Head of School