



# St. Mary's CofE Primary School

## United Schools Federation



September 2023

# Newsletter

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

## Diary Dates

### September

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Start of term

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Meet the teacher

### October

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Individual and Family Group photos

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - #HelloYellow Day for mental health awareness

### HALF TERM

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

## Keep in Touch



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope that you and your family have had a wonderful summer holiday and are now ready to get going again with another school year.

At the start of a new term we need to say a huge welcome to all of the new children starting school with us this September. They have all settled in really well at this early stage. We look forward to working closely with you to help support all of the children in school.

As always, we welcome your input to the school so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or ideas. Don't forget that there is also lots of information available through our website and Facebook page.

Kind regards,

*Adrian Clements*

Head of School



### ARTICLE 28

Every child has the right to an education.

## 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 – We currently DO NOT take bookings for Friday afternoons.

Thank you

## Our School Day

Please remember that the school gates open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am every morning. It is really important that your child is in class for the start of each day as activities and registers are taken at this time. If for any reason they are arriving late to school, please enter through the main school reception.

### Attendance

I would like to remind you about the importance of good attendance across the school year. We totally understand that 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.



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

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 a form which is available from the school office.

If you know that your child is going to be late 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.

## Class Welcome Meetings

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding drop-in sessions in each class between 3.15-4.00pm. This will be an opportunity for you to come along and meet the teacher, see the classroom where your child will be working and ask any questions that you may have at the early point in the school year. If you have a child in more than one class feel free to move between each classroom and have a chat with the teacher.

## Uniform

All children are expected to wear the correct school uniform to school each day. **Children may wear their PE kit on their PE days and this information will be sent home soon.** A reminder that the uniform expectations are as follows:

### Uniform

- School sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with school logo.
- White polo shirt or short sleeved shirt.
- Grey/black shorts/trousers/skirts/pinafore dress.
- Children can wear blue gingham dresses in the summer.
- School shoes must be worn to school. These can be black sensible shoes, not trainers. At break and lunchtimes children can wear trainers for running around.
- In the summer children can wear sturdy sandals which support their feet and have a back on them. No flip flops.



### PE Kit

- Plain white T shirt.
- Plain navy or black shorts
- Plimsolls or trainers (these should, where possible, be mainly black or white - colour detailing is acceptable).
- A plain tracksuit for when the weather is colder.

### Additional Information

- Children are not to wear nail varnish or make up to school.
- Children with shoulder length hair need to have their hair tied back during the school day for health and safety reasons.
- All children need to have sensible haircuts. Children's hair must not be dyed.
- Hair bands/bows of school colours can be worn. Children can wear watches but not smart watches.
- For Health and Safety reasons, the only jewellery that will be permitted in school is stud earrings for pierced ears.

## Forest School

Forest School will begin again next week. As a reminder, each child will have a Forest School session once a fortnight and these will take place outside in most weather conditions. At the moment, we are having some good weather but as it gets colder and probably wetter, please make sure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing and footwear for their Forest School sessions. The chart below shows when your child will have their first session. We will endeavour to remind you of the rota as the term progresses.

First session	Class
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Rosen and Potter
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Dahl and Morpurgo

## Bikes and Scooters

We enjoy seeing bikes and scooters parked in the bike shelter but can we please remind you that if your child wishes to ride or scooter to school, they MUST wear a helmet.

## Children's Rights

Throughout the year we will consider a different article from the UNCRC and ensure the rights are being taught through our daily classroom practice. To begin with we are focusing on Article 28 of the UNCRC that says that young people have the right to education no matter who they are: regardless of race, gender or disability; if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee.

For more information about the Rights for Children, follow the link below.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

## Mental Health

As we begin a new school year, this can bring a range of emotions for our children and for us too, as parents. A new year group, classroom and new routines can be really exciting but also daunting and can cause feelings of anxiety and overwhelm for some children.

When this happens, our children need to stop and regroup – grounding techniques can be very useful for this.

Please follow the link below to find 15 great ideas for grounding your child in moments of difficulty.

<https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/grounding-exercises-for-kids/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

*Adrian Clements*

Head of School