

September 2023



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

It's been great to welcome everyone back to St. Mary's for the new academic year. With one month almost completed, we've really enjoyed meeting all of our new Reception children and, as always, it's been fantastic to see the relationships that develop between any new children in school and the rest of the school. Thank you particularly, to the older children in school who always seem to remember what it was like to start school and therefore take great care of the new ones in Rosen Class.

Keep up to date on the latest things that we get up to at St. Mary's by reading our school and class blogs on our website and social media pages.

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

With best wishes

The Brixton Team



Upcoming Events

October 3

School photographer – individual and family groups

October 10

#HelloYellow – Mental Health Awareness

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk



www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk



www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys



01752 880436

Clubs

Clubs are now up and running and we appreciate all of the interest shown in booking places. Please let us know if your child isn't going to attend their after school club as we take a register at the start of each session. Also, if for some reason, your child decides that they don't want to come to their club anymore, can you also let us know so that we can offer the space to another child.

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day Tuesday 10th October

In a recent parent survey on their perceptions of children's mental health, a number of parents requested support in starting conversations about mental health, with their child.

Sometimes this can feel very scary and we as parents may worry about getting it "wrong".

In truth, our children just need to know that we are there and that we want to see and hear them. You know your child best and you will know when it feels right to approach this.

Young Minds is an excellent mental health charity website that has some lovely conversation starters to support you in opening up a chat with your child.

Follow this link to download the ideas and get talking!



<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/#Conversationstarterstosupportyou>

Also, On Tuesday 10th October, it will be World Mental Health Day and this year the theme is "*Mental Health is a universal human right*".

Children may wear yellow as we have done in previous years to show support for the #HelloYellow campaign, or they can choose to wear clothes that make them feel good.

Our mental health champions will be giving out some information about mental health as you collect your child from school in that week and teachers will be encouraging children to share their worries and be supportive to any of their peers who might be struggling with their emotions.

Uniform

It is great to see how smart the children are looking as they have returned for a new academic year. Please ensure that your child's uniform is in line with our uniform policy which can be found on our school website.

Don't forget that plain tracksuits can be worn on PE days, especially as the weather gets colder, but can we please ask that normal school jumpers and cardigans are worn on all of the days when they don't have PE.

Healthy Snacks

Can we please remind you to send your child into school with a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for break time. Snacks are provided for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

We do have children in school who have food allergies and it is important to ensure that there is no risk to them, whilst also promoting healthy snacks as a way to get a top up of energy for everyone. Thank you

The Brixton Feoffee Trust



Everyone is aware that there is a well-documented 'cost of living crisis' at the moment across the whole country and we appreciate how difficult things can become for families at different times of the year, for all sorts of different reasons.

The Brixton Feoffee Trust is available to anyone in genuine need who cannot obtain financial assistance from other sources. Support can be given to individuals who live or who have lived in the Parish of Brixton. Support can also be given to students of the school to support with an aspect of school life. Finally, support can also be given to people living in the Parish, who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. This can be given as a grant to support the buying of food and basic essentials.

If you would like any more information or wish to make an application to the Brixton Feoffee Trust, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees directly on 01752 880262 or email brixtonfeoffetrust@googlemail.com.

More information can also be found via the website - <https://www.brixtondevon.co.uk/>

All applications are confidential and will not be shared by the Brixton Feoffee Trust with any other parties.

Harvest Service



We will be having our Harvest service at St. Mary's Church on Friday 13th October at 11.00am. As always, we will be walking the children up to the church and although we know that many of you can't attend due to work commitments, we would like to invite you to share in the service if you are free.

As we have done in previous years, we'd like to collect food items that we can donate to one of the local food banks. Anything in tins or packets would be ideal and by doing this we can support those families who need a little extra help at this time.

Important Dates

Here are some dates to add to your diary.

Tuesday 3 rd October	School photographer – individual and family groups.
Tuesday 10 th October	#HelloYellow Day in support of World Mental Health Day
Tuesday 10 th October	Y6 Junior Life Skills
Friday 13 th October	HARVEST SERVICE in the church from 11.00am Final day of Autumn 1 term (2 week half term)
Monday 30 th October	First day of Autumn 2 term

Friends Of Brixton School (F.O.B.S.)



We'd like to say a huge thank you to the parents and carers who have launched into the role of being the new PTA. Under the name of F.O.B.S. (Friends of Brixton School), they will be working hard to support the school with lots of exciting events in the coming months. So far, they have done an amazing job which we all appreciate.

Keep an eye on the FOBS noticeboard by the Steer Point Road entrance as well as messages on the Facebook page and sent out through ParentPay. I'm certain that they would always welcome further support, even if you aren't able to commit regularly to helping.

See the attached newsletter for more information about upcoming events.

New Bug Hotels



We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council for providing us with some new environmental furniture which we will put up in the school grounds to support local wildlife.

Firstly, we have two wonderful new bug hotels which have been made for us. These will not only provide valuable homes for local minibeasts, but will also support with the learning opportunities for the children in school.

We have also taken delivery of some lovely new bird boxes too which we will place around the site.

And finally ... Wall Repairs

For those of you who have used the main school entrance and carpark, you will have noticed that Elliott's Hill has been like a building site in the last couple of weeks. This wall has been in need of repair following one or two small collapses into the road. This work is now being done and is due to finish sometime towards the end of October. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused to any of you who use the road to access school or the village, but we are looking forward to seeing a much nicer wall in the very near future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School