

November 2023



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

Here is our November newsletter. Please take the time to read it carefully to find out what we have been doing but also what events are coming up as we head towards Christmas.

BBC Children In Need – Friday 17th November



Thank you for all of your support with this years BBC Children In Need campaign. We are very grateful for all of your contributions and a special well done to all of the children in Morpurgo Class who organized a superb afternoon fun and games session in the hall for everyone to enjoy. Their efforts allowed the fund raising to keep on going and as a school we raised around £185 for this very worthwhile cause.



Upcoming Events

Mon 4th December – KS2 trip to the Eden Project

Tues 5th December – KS1 & EYFS trip to Plymouth Aquarium

Sun 10th December – FOBS Christmas Fair

Further dates in the newsletter.

Keep in Touch

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www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys



Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) and Numbots



It's been great to see the children working so hard on TTRS and Numbots recently. These online games are excellent for all children to practice these essential maths skills which feed into all areas of the curriculum. If your children are using them at home please don't forget to occasionally update the apps so that you get the very latest versions.

In this run up to Christmas, we have entered a competition with the other USF schools to really encourage and boost participation in TTRS and after the first week we have to say a huge well done to all of the children for being determined to remain at the top of the charts!



Remembrance Day

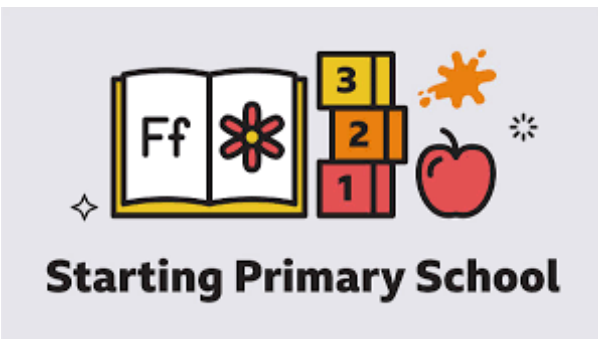
I know that I have already mentioned the excellent contribution that children from St. Mary's made during the Remembrance Day service at St. Mary's church earlier this month, but I have been thrilled to receive comments from parents, members of the community and Rev Trevor Filtness about how well our children performed and behaved during the service. Well done to all of them!

Violin Sessions

Dahl and Morpurgo Classes have been enjoying having some violin lessons over the last few weeks and it has been really nice to hear how well they have been doing every Tuesday afternoon. The violin is not an easy instrument to get to grips with so they all deserve a huge well done for their efforts. Thanks to Kip, (the violin teacher), for his time and effort too. I wonder if any of the children will choose to take up the violin again in the future?



Primary School Applications



Primary School Applications Applications for primary school places are open, for admission into Primary School in September 2024 and you can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. Applications must be in by 15th January 2024 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice.

Uniform

Please could we remind everyone to check the uniform policy on the website and ensure that children have the correct uniform and PE kit. It is also really important that all uniform is clearly and fully named.

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please can we remind parents and carers to send children in with a coat each day as we like to get them outside whenever possible. On PE days, children can now wear tracksuit bottoms and their school sweatshirt too.



Mental Health



Mental Health is a big focus in the media currently which is a great thing – we are becoming more aware of the importance of noticing and talking about our mental health and the more we do this, the less stigma there is around acknowledging that we can all struggle.

ITVX have created a programme to support children’s wellbeing. You may have seen adverts for **Britain Get Talking** on TV – this programme promotes the benefits of a simple chat with trusted others as a way of alleviating our stress and worries. Supported by Ant and Dec, the programme has designed a simple “homework” task for you and your child to do together that gives the opportunity for talking about what’s on our minds.



If you are interested, check this out at

<https://www.itv.com/britaingettalking/>

There are top tips for having difficult conversations and signposting to further support too.

School Trips

Everyone at school is looking forward to the trips that are going ahead next week. Potter and Rosen will be taking part in a workshop at Plymouth Aquarium and Morpurgo and Dahl Classes will be heading out to the Eden Project in Cornwall. We know that they will all have a great time and we look forward to hearing all about the visits.

Thank you for your help and support in making these trips viable.

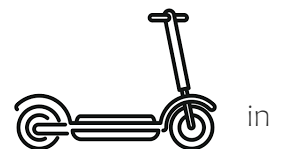
Attendance

I am aware we have had a number of illnesses around the school during the first half of the term and I am very grateful for everyone's support in helping manage this. We are vigilant in school around personal hygiene, and we have been grateful for everyone who has informed us promptly when children are unwell and have kept them off for the appropriate time period to help prevent the spread of these illnesses. I do understand that illness has an impact on attendance, and I know that working together we can improve this.

Despite the illnesses, we are currently around the 96% attendance mark for this first term which is good. Thank you for your ongoing support with school attendance.

Bikes & Scooters

As always, it is lovely to see some children riding bikes and scooters to school and keeping fit and healthy. Please remember that children **MUST** wear helmets when riding their bikes and scooters, even if only for a short distance and they must be walked in and around the school site. Thank you for your cooperation and support keeping our children safe.



Christmas Dates & Reminders

The diary is becoming very busy and so here are a couple of reminders about dates coming up.

Sunday 3 rd December	FOBS Christmas Wreath Workshop
Wb Monday 4 th December	Parents Evenings this week
Monday 4 th December	KS2 trip to the Eden Project
Tuesday 5 th December	KS1 trip to Plymouth Aquarium
Tuesday 5 th December	Violin performance by KS2 - Morpurgo 1.30pm Dahl 2.30pm
Sunday 10 th December	FOBS Christmas Fair
Monday 11 th December	Nativity Performance 1.30pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Nativity Performance 1.30pm and 6.00pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Dinner and Parties. See poster below if you would like to enter the FOBS Christmas Competition on this day. You could win a prize.
Thursday 14 th December	Carols on the Playground – arrive for 5.00pm start
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Service in St. Mary's Church at 11.00am. End of term

On Wednesday 13th December children may wear their Christmas jumpers. Alternatively, if they would like to, they can enter the FOBS competition and wear a Christmas costume. This is a competition with prizes and we are asking for a £1 entry fee if you decide that you'd like to enter the competition. See the poster below.



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Let's see your best
Christmas costume



Class Winner takes home rosette
and overall winner Keeps a trophy.



13th December 2023

£1 entry in aid of Friends of Brixton School

And Finally....Wall Repairs

For those of you who have used the main school entrance and carpark, you will have noticed that the work on Elliott's Hill is progressing well. We're all looking forward to seeing the wall completed so that we can return to normal again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School