

October 2023



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

The first half of the Autumn Term is complete and we now look forward to the coming weeks in what is always an exciting period in the school year.

As always, we appreciate your continued support in everything we do.

Harvest Service



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Harvest Service which we held in school at the end of last half term. We really do appreciate all of the food contributions that came into school

on the day. These will make a huge difference to families in the local area who need to make use of the food banks.



Upcoming Events

Nov 13th-17th – Anti Bullying Week

Nov 13th – Odd Socks Day

Nov 17th BBC Children in Need

Further dates to follow.

Keep in Touch

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Clubs

Clubs continue this term but can we remind you to let us know if your child isn't going to attend their after school club. 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. Don't forget that the clubs will finish on Tuesday 28th November for this term.

Achieve4All sports clubs can be booked as usual through the Achieve4All website.

<https://achieve4all.co.uk/>

Anti-Bullying Week : 13th - 17th November

We will be having a whole school focus on bullying as part of Anti-Bullying Week which begins on Monday 13th November.

Make a Noise About Bullying -

Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'.



It doesn't have to be this way. Of course, we won't like everyone, and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.

In school, we use **STOP** as a way to reinforce the key message about what bullying is and what to do if it is happening to you or you see it happening to someone else.

For your information, this is what 'STOP' stands for:

	What is bullying?	What we should do?
S	Several	Start
T	Times	Telling
O	On	Other
P	Purpose	People

To start the week on Monday 13th November, we will have.....



Monday 13th November - **Odd Socks Day** is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness. We are all different and this needs to be celebrated.

There is no pressure on the children. All they have to do, if they would like to take part, is to wear odd socks along with their uniform. It couldn't be simpler!

BBC Children In Need – Friday 17th November

As always, we will be supporting the BBC Children In Need campaign again this year. We would love to see as many children as possible getting all 'spotty' for this annual SPOTACULAR event. If you have something spotty, why not wear it for the day. Otherwise, why not find something that you enjoy wearing that makes you feel good.



We would like to ask for £1 donations on the day to support this great charity. Donations can be given to the class teacher at register time.

In the afternoon, Morpurgo Class will be organizing some fun and games stalls in the hall for the children so some additional coins in a named purse would be ideal to spend whilst having some fun before home time.

If you are able, can we also ask for cake donations too to sell during the afternoon fun. Any spare cakes will then be on offer after school so you can get yourself a treat as well!

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.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Bikes & Scooters



It is lovely to see some children riding bikes and scooters to school and keeping fit and healthy.

Please remember children **MUST** wear helmets when riding their bikes and scooters, even if only for a short distance.

Christian Value



Our new Christian Values for this half term are
Friendship and Compassion.

We have used the story from the Bible called 'Down Through The Roof' to demonstrate both of these values. Use this link to find a fun animation of that story.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cmppSIQUX4>

Important Dates

Here are some dates to add to your diary.

Friday 3 rd November	FOBS School Disco
Friday 10 th November	Remembrance Day
Monday 13 th November	Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 17 th November	BBC Children In Need Day
Tuesday 28 th November	Final club sessions, (not Achieve4All clubs)

Wall Repairs - update

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 November. 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.

And finally ... Remembrance



As we always do, we will join with the nation in an act of Remembrance on Friday 10th November to remember all of the people who have given their lives in wars around the world.

We have poppies from the Royal British Legion, on sale between now and the 10th November.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Clements

Head of School