

January 2024



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

T: 01752 880436

Email: admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

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



Upcoming Events

Friday 2nd February – NSPCC
Number Day

Wb 12th February – HALF TERM

Thursday 7th March – World Book
Day



Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 12 - Respect for the views of the
child

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

The New Year celebrations seem a distant memory as we are already hurtling towards February and the half term holiday.

Please take the time to read the newsletter as there is a lot of information about things that are in the diary for the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk



www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk



www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys



01752 880436

NSPCC Number Day - Friday 2nd February 2024

NSPCC Number Day, celebrated annually in February, is a special day dedicated to raising funds for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) while having fun with numbers.

On this day we would like children to **dress up for digits**, this means they can **wear an item of clothing with a number on it**, this could be a favourite sports top, cap or even a onesie or why not get more creative and design a unique t-shirt, hat or even become a human-sized calculator or dice, be as imaginative as you can as long as it includes digit/s **in return for a donation to the NSPCC**.

NSPCC number day is supported by TTRS and Numbots and we are taking part in their one day only competition called NSPCC Rocks.

Friends Of Brixton School (FOBS)

The FOBS have made an outstanding start in their support for the school and through their commitment, hard work and energy, coupled with your support for the work they are doing, it is great to see that there is already in excess of £3000 raised. This money will go back into the school to support with resources and events for all of the children and we are all very appreciative of this.

Thanks to the efforts so far, we are now working towards providing a sensory space in the school for any child to access when it is needed.

We will continue to keep you up to date with events that are coming up but please also keep an eye on the notice board by the Steer Point Road entrance.

Out of School Achievements



Children love to share their achievements from their out of school activities. This could be something that they have achieved as part of the local community, as part of a team or as an individual.

We love to see these achievements too and are happy to share them with the rest of the school, as part of our Praise Assembly. We also have a display in school where we like to display photos of these out of school achievements. If you are happy to share photos for the display please send copies in to school or email them to admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk with a brief outline so that we can share them with everyone in school and celebrate the activities that children take part in.



Uniform Reminder

Just a reminder that the children are expected to wear their school uniform each day. The full uniform policy can be found on the school website or by clicking on the image below.



- School sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo
- White polo shirt
- Grey or black shorts/skirt/trousers/pinafore dress
- Plain black/brown, sensible school shoes.
- Please remember that nail varnish and make-up is not permitted.

On PE days, lots of children prefer to wear their school jumper which is ideal. If they would prefer they can wear a plain tracksuit.

We would also be grateful if you could ensure that your child comes to school each day with a coat, even if the weather in the morning is fine. We will often still try to get the children outside for fresh air, even with light rain, but a coat is essential for this, so that your child is not sat in damp, wet clothes for the rest of the day. Your understanding of this is very much appreciated.

Staying Safe Online



This month, we are sharing online safety guidance which focuses on giving advice to manage screen time for your children.

99% of current children will own a smartphone before they reach 18. With phones and other devices offering an increasing number of ways to pass the time, it can prove difficult for young people to set them aside. As a gateway to messaging services, games, television, music and more, digital devices can become borderline indispensable items in a young person's life. Studies have shown, however, that managing a child's screen time can have positive impacts on their cognitive development.

Here are some simple but effective tips to help you bring your family's screen time down to a healthier level, while suggesting alternative activities that are far less reliant on technology

[Click on the image to open up a larger version from the National Online Safety Facebook Page.](#)

Christian Value

This term we are focusing on Perseverance and Resilience as our Christian Values. Further information and a video story called 'The Lost Sheep' can be found on our Christian Values page on the website.

<https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/our-christian-values/>

Scooters and Bikes

It is great to see children walking, cycling or riding their scooters to school. We would like to remind those who scooter and ride bikes to school to remember to wear helmets and to walk their bikes and scooters around the school site. They must not be ridden on school site please, once the children get to the school gate they must push their bikes or scooters. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Mental Health



Children's mental health week is running from 5th- 11th February and this year the theme is "My Voice Matters".

This links with Article 12 "You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously".

"My voice matters" is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

Our children and mental health champions will be sharing their own voices that week as we discuss how important it is for all our voices to be heard.

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Charity Place2Be visited primary and secondary schools to ask children and young people what they wanted when parents talk to them about their mental health. Their answers are direct and so interesting – please do take a look via this link and scroll down to Top Tips for Families.



<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/primary-age-activities/#resources>

World Book Day



World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March this year and we do hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate our World Book Day in school. The theme this year is '**Bedtime Stories**,' so please come to school in your pyjamas and bring your favourite bedtime story along with you.

Road Closure – Advance warning

Thank you to those of you who keep an eye out for the local news and then report it to us. There are some planned roadworks that could impact on the journey to school for some of you. These are currently due to take place from Monday 26th February until Friday 1st March where there will be some extensive patching on the A379 between Orchard Hill junction to Western Lodge Cross. Due to the nature of these works, a road closure is required and a full signed diversion will be in place.



Forest School

After Half term we are changing the organisation of Forest School to allow for children to experience different activities by having a longer session. Each class will still have the same amount of time in Forest School that they currently have, but this will be on a 4-week rota instead of every two weeks as we currently do. We will continue to notify you of when it is your child's class for their Forest School session.

PLEASE NOTE – children need a change of footwear as well as appropriate clothing for outdoor learning. Many children bring a change of clothes as well as boots, which is ideal and also prevents mud coming into the school.

And finally... Have you heard about OLIO?



OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. OLIO is super easy! To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up. To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging. Visit: www.olioex.com to read more.

Thank you too for your continued support. We really do appreciate it.

Adrian Clements

Head of School