March 2025

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 4th April – Easter Service at St. Mary's Church (11.00am start)

Friday 4th April – last day of Spring Term

Tuesday 22nd April – Start of Summer Term

<u>Rights Respecting Focus</u> -
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.

It's been another busy term at St. Mary's CofE Primary School but what a good term it has been. We've done so much this term and achieved a lot together. As always, we would like to express our thanks to all parents and carers as well as the wider community, for helping us this term. Have a great Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing you for the start of the summer term.

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys

01752 880436

Mental Health

Sleep plays a crucial role in your child's mental health and overall well-being. When children get enough rest, it helps them feel happier, more focused, and better able to manage their emotions. Creating a peaceful bedtime routine, limiting screen time before bed, and ensuring a calm, quiet environment can make a big difference.

If your child is having trouble sleeping, please know you're not alone. There are helpful resources and gentle strategies available to support you, and you can find more information at

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/sleep-problems-children/

Your child's well-being matters, and getting the right sleep is an important step in caring for it.

Kindness Assembly – Friday 7th March

On Friday 7th March, we had an assembly run by Kind Campaign. This is designed for Years 3,4,5, & 6 girls.

Kind Campaign is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation that brings awareness and healing to the negative and lasting effects of the conflict and aggression that can exist within girl relationships. For more information go to https://www.kindcampaign.com/about/

This was a very thoughtful and rewarding assembly for all of those who were able to attend from across the federation, and we know that it did a good job in making all of the children think more about the issues raised and the ways in which we can support each other through kind words and actions.

Parking

I have noticed that safe parking is becoming a bit of an issue again at the moment. Can I please urge you to make sure that if you do need to come to school in a car, you look for safe places to park. I have seen more people parking on yellow lines even for a quick drop off, but these lines are there for a reason and that is to keep the roads around the school entrance safe and accident free.

Please help us by looking for safe parking spaces or even park further away and walk the rest of the way down to school.

Thank you for your support with this.

Ofsted

As you will be aware, last week we had our latest Ofsted inspection. As soon as we have the final report, we will be able to share the outcome with you.

Thank you for all of your positive words and encouragement during the two days that we had our visit from the inspectors. Having been through many inspections before I know what they can be like as a staff member and so I would like to personally thank everyone on the staff for their hard work and dedication. For many of our staff, this was the first experience of an Ofsted inspection and so the anticipation was high. They did a really good job emphasising the strength of the St. Mary's team. Thank you to the wider federation and the Governors for their support too.

Comic Relief

We recently had our charity fund raiser for Comic Relief and it was really good to see so many children dressed up in either red clothes or an outfit from the decades. Comic Relief celebrated 40 years this year and it was really good to support this worthwhile charity.

We raised £158.85. Thank you.

Thanks too for some great jokes for our joke book. Here are a couple of our favourites :

'What kind of a dog does a magician have?' – *A Labracadabrador*

'A friend of mine has just started up his own business making yachts in the loft and the sails have just gone through the roof'.

'Why are football stadiums always cold?' – *Because they are full of fans*

Sun Safe

Hopefully, in the Summer term, the sun will make an appearance. We would like to remind everyone about the importance of sun safety, with the following tips:

Water bottles: please make sure that your child has a water bottle every day. These need to be refreshed daily and named.

Hats: we would like to see the children with hats to wear in hot weather.

Sun protection: once-a-day sun lotions are ideal for school use. These can be applied at home before school and they avoid the need to add more sun lotion during the school day. If your child does bring sun lotion into school, they need to be able to apply it themselves. It should also be in a container labelled with their name/class.

Although we love the fact that we have generous children, who would happily share their sun lotion, we do need to be careful with sharing as some children may have sensitive skin or allergies to certain creams. Your support with helping your child to stay sun safe is much appreciated.

Christian Value

When we start the new half term after the Easter break, we will be focussing on a new Christian Value in school. The new value that we will be thinking about will be 'TRUST'. The following link will take you to our Christian Values page on our school website where you can see the values across the year and also the stories that we link to these values to help the children learn about their meaning.

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

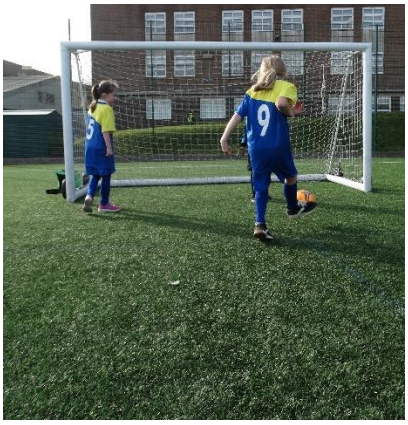
BBFC & PEGI Ratings

One of the things we occasionally hear children talking about to their friends on the playground, is the things they get up to at home. This often includes things like computer games they are playing, films and programmes they have watched and also things they have seen online on sites such as YouTube. Please make sure that you are aware of what they do have access to and take the time to check what they are watching and playing and set parental controls where possible.

At the end of this newsletter is a reminder about game and film classifications (BBFC and PEGI ratings).

Football Tournament

We recently took 2 teams of girls to play in a football tournament at Ivybridge Community College. We had a Y5/6 team and a Y3/4 team and both did amazingly well against many different local schools on the all-weather pitches.



Our Y5/6 team had to play more games than the Y3/4 team and many of these were consecutive games so the energy levels were well drained by the end of the day. They performed really well, rotated positions during the games and they were a great team together.

The Y3/4 team ended up with the gold medal after their games which now means they are put forward to the County Finals. Hopefully, we will have some more exciting results to share later in the year when these finals take place.

Composter

On Friday 21st March, we had our grand opening of the new Ridan food waste composter which is situated close to the old swimming pool entrance. This project was made possible by the Friends of Brixton School, supported by Yealm Community Energy and the Brixton Community Composters.

The composter takes all food waste and when this is mixed with wood chip and rotated using the large handle, it makes compost that is safe to use in our gardens. We will be filling the composter over the coming weeks with the food waste from lunch time and we hope to see lots of useable compost in the coming months.

Our Eco Group in school will be helping to manage the food waste that we generate so that nothing goes to waste.

And finally … Trips & FOBS (Friends Of Brixton School)

I just wanted to thank the FOBS again for their hard work in supporting the school. One of the areas where we have asked them to provide support is in school trips.

Trips cost money and these days, a lot of the cost is for the coach travel to the different venues. FOBS have generously promised to support every child equally across the year with money for school trips. Through their contributions, we are able to offer a subsidy, where possible, towards the cost of the trips to make them as affordable as possible. An example of how this has already worked is the reduction in price for the Stover trips this week for everyone in school.

Thanks to FOBS for the ongoing support which benefits everyone in school.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 4th April	last day of Spring Term
Friday 4th April	Easter Service in the church at 11.00am
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Summer Term

Don't forget that school term dates for the rest of this year and next year, can be found on the school website, especially if you are looking to book holidays and need to know when the school is closed.

https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/parent-zone/calendar/

From everyone at St. Mary's, have a relaxing Easter holiday.

Adrian Clements

Head of School

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

- **U** – Universal, suitable for all ages
- **PG** – Parental Guidance required
- **12** – Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- **12A** – Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
- **15** – Suitable for people aged 15 and over
- **18** – Suitable for people aged 18 and over
- **R18** RESTRICTED – Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

3 www.pegi.info | 7 www.pegi.info | 12 www.pegi.info | 16 www.pegi.info | 18 www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

FEAR | DRUGS | IN-GAME PURCHASES | VIOLENCE | BAD LANGUAGE | DISCRIMINATION | GAMBLING | SEX

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.02.19