May 2025

St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

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.

As we approach the end of May, it's hard to believe just how quickly this year is going. After this next half term holiday, we return to school on Monday 2nd June for another packed few weeks before the end of the school year on 24th July.

Please read the newsletter carefully and make sure to add any dates to your own diary so that you know what is coming up in the busy period of the year.

Upcoming Events

Wb 2nd June – Morpurgo swimming

Wb 9th June and Wb 16th June – Dahl swimming

Thursday 19th June – Sports Day (Reserve date – Thursday 3rd July)

Keep in Touch

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VE Day 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8th May

VE Day was a wonderful day in school and if you were able to come along and share that special picnic lunch event with us, we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.
The children did some wonderful work to learn more about this important day in our recent history as well as trying to understand more about what it must have been like to be part of those celebrations 80 years ago.

Sun Safe

Thank you for all of your support in helping to keep the children sun safe. Please make sure that your children have their sun hats in school every day as well as having a freshly filled water bottle.

Mental Health - Supporting Morning Goodbyes

We know that saying goodbye at the school gate can be really tough—for children and parents alike. Some children find the separation especially hard, and it's completely normal. As a parent, staying calm and steady can make a big difference. Take a few deep breaths, offer a confident smile, and let your child know they're safe and loved.

At home, creating a predictable morning routine and talking positively about the school day ahead can help ease anxiety. A special goodbye ritual—like a secret handshake or a "see you later" phrase—can also offer comfort. It's not always easy, but we see how much love is behind every drop-off! Watch this short video from leading Children's Mental Health Charity Place2Be, for more ideas.

https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/help-your-child-manage-separations-and-goodbyes

Online Safety

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, an issue that concerns many people is that of mobile phones and whether children should have access to smart phones and if so, at what age. Children feel a lot of peer pressure to ask for a phone, and smart phones especially, can raise issues around online safety that you should be aware of.

Some of the key concerns around Smart phones and online devices include:

- Children being exposed to harmful online content.
- Addiction to the phone and apps/games. How much time do they spend on phones and devices every day and what does this mean in terms of their lost opportunities for doing other things or interacting with others?
- Academic distraction. Focus on homework can be difficult, especially for secondary aged children, due to the amount of messages and notifications that they receive through their smart phones.
- Cyberbullying. Social media sites now mean that children are exposed to chats and conversations 24/7. Things don't always stop at the school gate as they did in the past.
- Time spent online can have an impact on personal well-being.

We would encourage all parents & carers, to make sure they monitor their child's online use as well as having conversations with children about what the rules are for your family so that you can check what they have access to and when they can access online content.

We work hard in school to help children learn more about online safety and they are very good at identifying the dangers and what to do if they are worried about anything they see online.

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online

Holiday Club – Achieve4All

You may have seen the emails about the trial Holiday Club that our coaches from Achieve4All will be running in the half term holiday. If you haven't and this is something you would like to book, please see the

information below. If this trial works well, it may lead to further opportunities during other school holidays, which we know some of you will be very interested in.

SAT's

Well done to all of the Y6 children for completing their SATs tests last week. They did an amazing job and we know they've all done their best in what can be a stressful time for them.

After the final test, we met up with all of the other Y6 children from across the federation, to celebrate the end of SAT's and let off some steam by having a lovely day at Splashdown in Paignton.

OFSTED Report

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, the final report has now been published through the Ofsted website for you to read.

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/113478

Thank you again to everyone who works at school for their incredible hard work every day, to you the parents and carers for your ongoing support, to the school Governors and the wider USF for their support throughout the year, and most importantly, to the children for being the amazing people that they all are.

And finally … Dates for the Diary

Wb Monday 2nd June	Morpurgo swimming week
Wb Monday 9th June	Dahl swimming – week 1
Wb Monday 16th June	Dahl swimming – week 2
Thursday 19th June	Sports Day
Thursday 3rd July	Reserve Sports Day (if needed)

FURTHER DATES WILL BE PUBLISHED ONCE THEY ARE CONFIRMED.

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/

Have a lovely half term holiday.

Adrian Clements

Head of School