July 2025

St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday 24th July – last day of term

Tuesday 2nd September – start of the Autumn Term

Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 14 – Freedom of Thought and Religion

Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.

End of Term

Here we are at the end of another school year. As I said in our church service last week, the end of a year is a time to reflect and be thankful for everything we have done and achieved, including remembering all of those who have helped and supported us along the way.

We really are thankful for all of your help and support across each and every year.

Keep in Touch

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Highlights of the Year

What a year it's been. There are so many highlights to reflect on. Here are just a few of the highlights to remind you about our busy year at St. Mary's.

Uniform

Although we know that we haven't even started the holiday yet, some of you will already be thinking about uniform for September.

Please click here to view the uniform policy.

Please remember that we have a uniform policy which can be seen by following the link above, but as a reminder here are some key reminders, particularly regarding PE kit for PE days.

PE KIT

Currently, school asks that PE Kit is worn to school on PE days and should be plain or have a school logo.

- White t-shirt / polo shirt.
- Plain black shorts or navy.
- Plimsolls or trainers (younger children need to have Velcro fasteners).
- A tracksuit should be worn in cold weather. These should be plain in black or navy blue.

Please note that many children often prefer to wear their school jumper instead of a tracksuit on PE days which is a good idea.

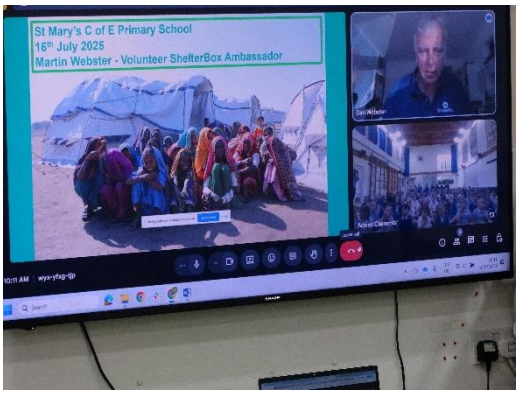
NOTES

- Children are not to wear nail varnish or make up to school.
- Children can wear watches.
- For Health and Safety reasons, the only jewellery that will be permitted in school is stud earrings for pierced ears. These are to be restricted to one stud per ear and must either be removed or taped for PE and Games.

Shelter Box

Earlier this year, Dexter in Y2, asked about supporting charity that he had been learning about. The charity is Shelter Box, who provide essential equipment and shelter for families around the world who may have lost their own homes due to all sorts of natural disasters and even conflict. The work they do is so important and so it's a huge thank you to Dexter for raising awareness for everyone in school. He was sent a lovely Shelter Box t-shirt which you can see in the photo.

We were also lucky to welcome Martin Webster from the charity who joined us online for a special assembly this week. He told the children more about the work they do and shared some examples of people they had helped in different parts of the world.



To find out more about Shelter Box and to see the work they do or even contribute to their valuable service, please follow the website link or click on the Shelter Box logo below.

https://shelterbox.org/

ShelterBox

Attendance

Thank you to everyone for your understanding about the importance of good school attendance. Our current attendance rate for school this year is 96.5%.

As I have stated in previous newsletters, there are clearly occasions when your child shouldn't be in school due to illness and we appreciate you keeping us informed of this by ringing the school before 8.30am and leaving a message on the attendance answer phone. Please don't simply leave a message with myself or the duty teacher of the playground in the morning, as these messages may not get to the office before the register has been checked in the morning.

Holiday's taken during term time are something we would ask you to avoid. All holiday requests will be classed as unauthorised absence unless there is an exceptional reason for the requested time off, which you must make us aware of by completing an 'S2' form which is available from the school office. A missed period can make a huge difference because vital building blocks of learning from one day often feed into the continued learning for the next day/week and this therefore impacts on progress made.

Please ensure that you tell us of all absences even if you know they are not going to be authorised. Children often want to tell us about what they have done or where they have been and it is only fair to let them do this even when it was an unauthorised reason.

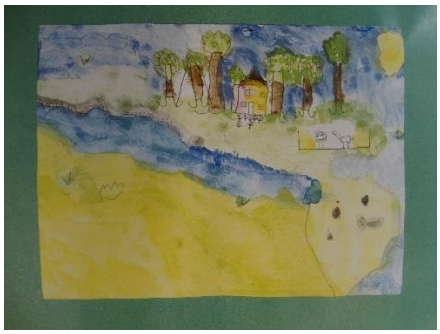
Can I also remind you that children need to be at school on time. The gates are open from 8.45am - 9.00am. The register is taken at 9.00am, including the dinner register and lateness can impact on this important part of the day.

If you know that your child is going to be late for whatever reason, please make sure you contact the office to let us know the reason, (for example a medical appointment), and in your message can you also indicate what meal option they will require so that the office and kitchen can co-ordinate orders as soon as possible.

Yealmpton Show

For the last couple of years, we have entered art into the Yealmpton Show as part of the YEM (Yealm Estuary to Moor) Art Challenge. This year has been no different and all of the children have had the opportunity to enter the competition which this year, had the title, '*Where the River Meets The Sea*'.

We are limited to entering three pieces of art and this year, the winning art work in school was done by Dalton (Y2), Amber (Y4) and Seren (Y6). Their work will now go into the show and hopefully, they could win a prize. If you are going along to the show, why not pop along to the YEM stand and see if you can find their work.



Dalton (Y2)

Seren (Y6)

Amber (Y4)

Holiday Club – Achieve4All

Don't forget that we have some holiday club provision available this summer which will be provided by our PE coaches at Achieve4All.

If you are interested, please log in to their website to see what is available to book.

https://achieve4all.co.uk/holiday-camps/

Events and dates

Thursday 24th July	Final day of the term
Summer Holiday	
Tuesday 2nd September	Start of the Autumn Term

Don't forget that school term dates for 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. This link also includes the dates for 2026/27 and 2027/28 if you need to plan much further ahead.

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

Class Structure

Just to remind you of our class structure for the coming year. Don't forget that this includes a name change for Miss Kelly and she is getting married this summer and will return as Mrs. Passmore.

Class	Year group	Teacher(s)
Rosen	Reception	Mrs. Berry
Potter	Y1/2	Mrs. Passmore (Miss Kelly)
Dahl	Y3/4	Mrs. Kay (4 days) & Mrs. Howlett (1 day)
Morpurgo	Y5/6	Mrs. Ironmonger

The Staff – THANK YOU

My job would be an impossible one without the team we have here at St. Mary's. Each and every person who works here has an incredible work ethic and determination to do their best every day, but more importantly, they show a very high level of care for every single child, no matter which class they are in.

Everyone at St. Mary's knows everybody else. Maybe it's because we are a smaller school which makes that possible, or maybe it's because we all help and support each other as part of our day to day working. Positive interactions between everyone, (parents and carers, the staff and of course the children), help us to be able to do what we do and to create the atmosphere that impresses so many whether they are guests at school, or when we are out and about on school trips.

I would like to wish the staff the BEST summer holiday. After a busy year, including our latest Ofsted inspection back in March, it's important to recharge the batteries and you all deserve it. Whether it's a holiday at home, a trip away, a wedding……..whatever it is, have a great time!

And Finally…

To our leaving cohort of Y6 children, we would like to wish them all the best as they move on to the next adventure when they begin their new schools in September.

How many of you can remember your last day at Primary School? I certainly can. It was an emotional time as we said goodbye to our school and teachers. I remember saying goodbye to friends I knew I wouldn't see so much as they were going to different secondary schools all over the local area. I remember the excitement and also the nerves about the next step including buying the new uniform during the holiday which looked so big on me at the start. I also recall the thought of the long summer holiday. The summer holiday always seemed to go on for ever and ever as an 11 year old.

We know that we have a really positive and confident group of Y6's who are leaving us this year. They have achieved so much and have been on some amazing adventures. We also know that for some of the parents and carers of this group, this is the end of their association with the school after many years and we thank them for their contribution to school over the years.

We won't forget you Year 6!

Have a great Summer Holiday.

Adrian Clements

Head of School