September 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

Tuesday 30th Sept – Flu vaccinations

Wednesday 1st October – school photos (see below for details)

Friday 10th October - #Hello Yellow and MuftiDay (FOBS). Disco.

Friday 17th March – Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church (11.00am).

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.

It's been really good to see everyone back at school this term and it's so nice to see how well everyone has settled in to their new year groups. A huge welcome to our new Reception children as well as the new children who have joined us from other schools in Key Stage 2.

Please keep up to date with all of the information that we send out to you whether it's an email or a newsletter. Please also remember to keep an eye on information from the FOBS about what events they have in the diary but also where the money raised is being spent.

## Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys

01752 880436

## School Photos – Wednesday 1st October

It's coming up to the time when we have the school photographer coming to school to take individual and family group photos. This will be on **Wednesday 1st October**. If this is your child's PE day, please make sure that they are wearing their full school uniform on that day for the photos.

If you would like to have a sibling photograph with siblings who don't attend St. Mary's then please come to the main school reception from 8.15am

## Before and After School Clubs

If you would like to book spaces at our before and after school clubs, please login to ParentPay as soon as you know you need the space. If you have any issues with booking, please contact Mrs. Wall in the school office and she will be happy to help you.

Occasionally, there is a need for an emergency booking and we are happy to help. Again, please contact the school office to arrange this if needed.

## Cycling to School

It is lovely to see the children riding bikes and scooters to school and keeping fit and healthy. Please remind the children of road safety and awareness when riding the bikes.

Please make sure that your children stay within your range of vision at all times. Please also ensure that the children wear helmets when riding their bikes, skateboards and scooters, even if only for a short distance from where you have parked the car.

## Holiday Camps – Achieve4All

Holiday camps will again be running during the October half term holiday if you would like to secure a place. They will take place on Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th October 9.00am - 3.30pm and are available to book on the A4A website.

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

Christian Value

Our focus Christian Value for this half term is '**Love**'. A love for the people around us, the places that we go and the things we do, are at the heart of everything, and as our school vision below reminds us, we can all succeed by working together within the love of God.

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

Our website has links to all of our Christian Values and this includes links to stories which can reinforce the meaning of each value throughout the school year.

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

Mental Health Support Team

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools (MHST) is a new NHS service commissioned to work with a number of schools across Devon and Torbay and in the community. They offer early intervention to help children and young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. You can read more by following the link below.

https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/our-pathways/mental-health-support-team/

The MHST recently came to school to lead an assembly to the whole school and some of you will have seen them and spoken to the team on the playground after school.

The MHST also support our Mental Health Champions and recently they ran an event for the Mental Health Champions from all of the USF schools at Ipplepen Primary. The children took part really well in this day and learnt a lot about the sorts of things they can do to help support people who might need some help.

## 2026 Secondary School Applications

For children in Year 6, applications for Year 7 secondary school places opened at the start of September 2025. Please be aware that applications for a place at secondary school in Year 7 need to be submitted by 31st October 2025. Offer day will be 2nd March 2026 when you will find out the allocation that has been made for your child.

To complete your application, you need to apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline (Devon) or https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/apply-secondary-school-place (Plymouth) to ensure that your child gets their place.

## School ambassadors

Well done to our two new School Ambassadors. Effie and Iwan will work to improve school and this will involve activities and meetings with the other Ambassadors from the other USF schools. Meeting between schools is a great way for the children to make new friends and share ideas. We know they'll do a great job this year.

## FOBS

Thanks again goes to the FOBs for all of their hard work in raising vital funds for many aspects of school life. You will have received a copy of their latest newsletter which outlines who they are, what they are raising money for and what they are planning for the coming term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team.

Just a quick reminder that one of their commitments is to support every child with money towards school trips during the year and as was shown last year, this made a huge difference in making every trip more affordable for all.

## Flu Vaccinations - Tuesday 30th September

Everyone should have received details about how to sign up for the flu vaccinations which are taking place in school on Tuesday 30th September. This is a system run by the NHS and so all consent needs to registered with them. Mrs Wall has sent out these details again if this is something you would like to sign your child up to receive and the deadline for this is Monday 29th September.

## School Governors – A message from Nick Glanfield (Chair of Governors)

Could You Be a School Governor at Brixton St Mary?

We're looking for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about education and community to join the governing body at Brixton St Mary School. Our current governors bring a wide range of skills and experiences—from education and finance to business and community work—and we believe that diversity makes us stronger. You don't need to be an expert in education; just bring your perspective, commitment, and willingness to get involved.

Interested?
To find out more or express your interest, please speak to the school office directly. We'd love to hear from you!

Thanks

Nick Glanfield
United Schools Federation Chair of Governors

## The Brixton Feoffee Trust

Brixton Devon

Everyone is aware that there is a well-documented 'cost of living crisis' at the moment across the whole country and we appreciate how difficult things can become for families at different times of the year, for all sorts of different reasons.

The Brixton Feoffee Trust is available to anyone in genuine need who cannot obtain financial assistance from other sources. Support can be given to individuals who live or who have lived in the Parish of Brixton. Support can also be given to students of the school to support with an aspect of school life.

If you would like any more information or wish to make an application to the Brixton Feoffee Trust, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees directly on 01752 880262 or email brixtonfeoffeetrust@googlemail.com.

More information can also be found via the website - https://www.brixtondevon.co.uk/

All applications are confidential and will not be shared by the Brixton Feoffee Trust with any other parties.

Mental Health Corner -

As the new school year begins, it's natural for children (and parents!) to feel a mix of emotions. Starting a new class with a different teacher can be really exciting, but a change in environment and routines can also feel a bit unsettling and bring on some nerves. One simple, child-friendly way to help ease those wobbly feelings is balloon breathing. It's a calming technique that helps settle the body's stress response and bring a sense of calm. You can try it together at home – it's a lovely way to connect and support your child's emotional well-being. Here's a helpful guide to get you started:

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/balloon-breathing/

Events and dates

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| Monday 29th September | Deadline to sign up for flu vaccinations |
| Monday 29th September | 1st EYFS Open Event for September 2026 intake |
| Tuesday 30th September | Flu Vaccinations |
| Wednesday 1st October | Individual and family photos |
| Wb 6th October | The Kindness Challenge (NSPCC) |
| Friday 10th October | Mufti for a bottle & #Hello Yellow Day for World Mental Health |
| Friday 10th October | FOBS Disco |
| Friday 17th October | Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church (11.00am start) |
| Friday 17th October | FOBS Treat Friday |
| Half Term<br>20th October – 31st October | |
| Monday 3rd November | Start of the new term |
| Wednesday 12th November | 2nd EYFS Open Event for September 2026 intake |

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/

And Finally…. Mrs Passmore

As you will be aware, Miss Kelly got married in the summer holidays and is now known as Mrs. Passmore. I have to admit that I am still getting used to her new name and have still reverted to saying 'Miss Kelly' occasionally. I'll get better with time.

I also know that she has been asked by some parents and carers about seeing a couple of photos from the big day, so here they are. Huge congratulation to Mr and Mrs Passmore on what looks like a lovely day.

Kind regards

Adrian Clements

Head of School

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

# St. Marys CofE Primary Brixton

Monday 29th September and
Wednesday 12th November

School tour

Meet the teacher

Ask questions

3.30PM - 4.30PM

**REGISTER NOW BY CONTACTING THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

01752 880436 www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you and showing you around our school.