March 2026

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

Thursday 2nd April – Easter Service in the church from 11.00am

Monday 20th April – start of the Summer Term

Friday 1st May - TT Rock Stars & Numbots Day

Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 24 –

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy.

Here is the latest newsletter to mark the end of March and the end of another school term.

It's been a very busy few weeks in school since the February half term holiday and so we know that everyone will be ready for a couple of weeks off school to recharge ready for the start of the Summer Term.

Don't forget that we return to school on Monday 20th April.

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys

01752 880436

Easter Service – THURSDAY 2nd APRIL

A quick reminder - We will be taking the whole school to St. Mary's Church on Thursday 2nd April for our Easter Service.

As always, we invite you to join us if you are able.

The service begins at 11.00am.

Please note that this is the last day of term as the following day is Good Friday.

FOBS – Friends of Brixton School

The Friends of Brixton School (FOBS) continue to do an amazing job for **ALL** of the children in school. Last week we had a lovely Chocolate Bingo event in the hall. Thank you if you were able to come along and join in with the fun.

During that event it was good to be able to thank FOBS for all the hidden support as well as sharing some of the more visual contributions that they make to St. Mary's. As a reminder, the '*hidden support*' that you don't see is through their work on things like supporting with trips and visits. By giving each child £10 towards their trips across the year, we can make sure that we keep these costs as low as possible. Transport is often the biggest part of any trip and so this money can go a long way in making sure we can have these special days.

However, there is also the visual things that you see. Not only are there events in the diary that they put on, there are also purchases that support and improve the school. Last week, thanks to FOBS funding, we took delivery of a new stereo system which will improve dramatically the sound that we have in the hall for assemblies and performances. Thanks to the FOBS for all of their hard work and support this term.

TT Rock Star / Numbots Day – Friday 1st May

Here's another date for the diary. As you will be aware, we use Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) in school to promote mathematical knowledge and skills. Both are really good at developing your child's mathematical confidence in a fun and engaging way. We know lots of children like to use the activities at home too so that they can work towards their next certificate.

On Friday 1st May we will be having our next Numbots / TTRS day in school, which is a great day to focus on the work we do but also a fabulous opportunity to dress up. Children can dress up for the day as a Numbot or a Rock Star. We'll have a great day in school to promote these important skills. We can't wait to see what outfits we will get this year.

Don't forget that your children can use Numbots and TT Rock Stars at home using their individual log in details.

New Playground Equipment – COMING SOON

I hope the children have come home to tell you all about the new play equipment we are getting put in during the Easter holidays? If not, here is a picture of what we are having put in. This will enhance and improve what we already have for the children on the playground to play with and we look forward to seeing it in place after the Easter break.

Mental Health

As a federation, we believe it's really important that children learn to understand and talk about their mental health. These are skills that help them not just now, but throughout their lives. Our Mental Health Champions have been sharing this message in assemblies, helping children feel more confident about expressing how they feel.

As parents, it's completely natural to feel unsure about bringing up mental health. You might worry about saying the wrong thing, making things worse, or not knowing how your child will respond. But having gentle, everyday conversations about how your child is feeling can make a big difference. It helps them feel safe, listened to, and reassured that their feelings matter.

We often check in on our children's physical health, (like asking how a grazed knee is healing) and in the same way, checking in on their thoughts and feelings shows them that their mental health is just as important.

If you'd like some support or ideas on how to start these conversations, the following resources may be helpful:

www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/

www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/

Christian Value

When we return to school after Easter we will be focussing on our new Christian Value of '**TRUST**'.

As always, more information including some bible stories, can be accessed through the church pages on our school website to support children knowing more about this important theme.

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

Comic Relief

A huge thank you to everyone for the great total that we managed to raise for Comic Relief this year. Our total after all the donations was £252.06 which is fantastic. Thank again to everyone for making it a fun day, especially with all the jokes that were sent in.

Uniform Policy

This is just to remind you about our uniform policy. The full policy can be found on the school website on the parents drop down menu. The main thing to draw your attention to is the **'Notes'** section from that policy, particularly the notes around jewellery and earrings.

Notes

- *Children are not to wear nail varnish or make up to school.*
- *Children with long hair need to have their hair tied back during the school day for health and safety reasons.*
- *Children's hair must not be dyed.*
- *Children can and should wear watches. However, smart watches are not permitted.*
- *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.*

Thank you for your continued support with this.

Blast From The Past

It's been so good to see the 'Blast From The Past' team in school in recent weeks, working with three out of the four classes so far.

Morpurgo Class had a really good Anglo Saxon session, whilst Rosen Class had a lovely traditional story day where they took part in activities all based on the story of the 3 Little Pigs. Dahl Class then had a Roman Day and it was so good to see them marching like Roman soldiers around the hall with their shields. Sometimes the best learning comes from memorable activities just like this, so we hope they told you all about it.

Later in the year, Potter Class will get their turn too as they experience more about what life was like on the Titanic. They will learn about what happened as well as finding out more about some of the characters who were onboard the ill-fated ship.

World Book Day Highlights

This term also saw the annual celebration of books and reading. World Book Day is a key day for many schools across the country and we always like to go for it with our costumes.

This year, we asked children to wear a hat that shared a favourite story and we were amazed at some of the creations. Everyone really went for it this year and it was such a good show of creativity and fun. Thank you to everyone for their contribution to the day. Thanks also to the FOBS for making and selling all of the 'WONKY BARS' again this year. We know everyone loves them.

Here are a few of the hats we saw on the day.

School Car Park

Can we please ask that you DON'T fill up the spaces in the school car park at the start of the school day. We have had staff and school visitors being unable to park their cars on some days as spaces have been taken up by people waiting for the gates to open.

Feel free to use the car park at less busy times, or if you are collecting / dropping off outside of the normal start and end of day times

We appreciate your help with this.

Farm visit – Orchard Farm, Mothercombe

A huge well done to everyone in Rosen and Potter Classes for being so good on the recent trip to Orchard Farm in Mothercombe. This was a return trip to the farm to see farmers Joe and Jess following the trip last year. This year was a lot drier however which made it even more exciting as all of the children were able to see some new lambs that had recently been born.

Dates for the Diary…

As more dates are confirmed we will let you know.

Thursday 2nd April	Easter Service in the church from 11.00am
Monday 20th April	Start of the New Term
Friday 1st May	TTRS / Numbots Day

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.

And Finally…. SIAMS

If you haven't yet had a chance to read our latest SIAMS Report (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), then please follow the link to where it is on our school website.

https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/siams/

The school had a very positive report from the inspector and here are the notable strengths that were highlighted in that report.

- *The Christian vision and values, framed in the love of God, drive the work of the school. Pupils and adults live out the vision by working together to help themselves and others succeed. Leaders make bold decisions to serve pupils and families at the school.*

- *Wellbeing is a priority at St Mary's. Led by the vision, adults and pupils show love to one another. In order that pupils flourish, leaders do all that they can to support those who are considered to be disadvantaged or facing difficulties.*

- *Leaders are committed to providing a rich, exciting and engaging curriculum that reflects the vision. This enables pupils to flourish in their learning and personal development.*

- *Collective worship is a valued and joyous time through which the school's vision and supporting values are embedded. Worship is inclusive and leads to pupils' spiritual growth through opportunities to reflect and think deeply.*

- *Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and the rich variety of ways in which they encounter, explore and present their learning. As a result, pupils learn well and make sound progress.*

Thank you to the staff and the children as well as to those parents & carers who took time to speak with the Inspector on the day as well as the contribution from the church. We really do appreciate the support that you all give us in making this school the place that it is for all of the children and families who come here.

Kind regards

Adrian Clements

Head of School