July 2026

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 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.

Well, this is a bit of a sad moment as I write my final St. Mary's newsletter before leaving to begin my next role at Stokeinteignhead Primary School in September.

St. Mary's really has been a lovely place to be over the years and I know that it will continue to go from strength to strength. I wish Ms White all the very best as she becomes your new Head of School next term.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 23rd July – End of Year service at the church from 11.00am

Thursday 23rd July – Party on the Playground (FOBS)

Thursday 23rd July – Final day of the summer term.

Thursday 3rd September – start of the new school year

Keep in Touch

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Sports Day

When you have to cancel your initial Sports Day due to a slippery conditions and wet weather, there is always a prayer to be said for some better weather for the reserve date. Well, we certainly got better weather and we even had to consider how to run it safely due to the heat. From one extreme to another!

Thank you for your understanding and support in our revised event but we know from your reactions and comments, that you had as good a time as we did.

Thanks again to the FOBS for their support with refreshments on the day. It was also great to see the new gazebos having their first outing following their purchase by FOBS as well as giving the new sound system which they also funded, it's first outside outing. I think you will all agree that these have been excellent additions to the school this year. Thanks FOBS!

Mental Health Corner

As the summer holidays approach, many families look forward to spending more time together and taking a break from busy routines. Action for Happiness is a wonderful wellbeing charity that promotes kindness, compassion, and positive wellbeing habits that can benefit both children and adults.

Their free Jump Back Up July calendar offers simple daily activities designed to boost resilience, encourage positive thinking, and strengthen family connections. By taking part in these small, meaningful actions, families can support their mental health and wellbeing together, while making the most of the summer holidays.

Useful links:

Action for Happiness: https://actionforhappiness.org/ Jump Back Up July Calendar:

https://actionforhappiness.org/jump-back-up-july

Wishing all our families a happy, restful, and wellbeing-focused summer break!

Mrs. Harding (Mental Health Lead)

Local Studies Week

We recently had our Local Studies Week in school which is a great opportunity for all of the children to learn more about the village and the surrounding area. The week was organised by Mrs. Berry supported by all of the staff and the children were out and about in what turned out to be a very busy and rewarding week. Well done to everyone for keeping up with the pace of the week, (which included our Sports Day), during some really hot weather.

End of term - REMINDERS

End of term Service – Thursday 23rd July

Just a reminder that our end of term service at St. Mary's Church will take place on the final day of term (Thursday 23rd July) at 11.00am. As always, we would love to see you there if you can make it so that we can celebrate the end of another year at St. Mary's CofE Primary School.

End of term FOBS Event

As well as the church service on the final day, the FOBS will once again be hosting the end of term party. This is always a lovely way to end the school year as well as to say goodbye to the children in Y6 as they head off on their next adventure to secondary school.

Then event will take place after school until 5.00pm and we would love to see you there if you are able to make it.

Playground markings

During the summer holidays we are going to be having further playground improvements. Some of our playground markings are looking a bit worn out and in need of refreshment and so we have arranged for this to happen ready for September.

The children were all involved in drawing their designs and from that set of designs we selected the most popular elements to refresh the playground. We hope everyone will enjoy the improvements once they have been completed.

Swimming Gala

The USF held one of its federation sporting events recently with a swimming gala for all 8 schools to attend, taking place at Topsham School. It was another hot day and so the pool was a welcome and refreshing venue for all of the children taking part. Each school provided 6 swimmers to take part from the KS2 classes and so it's a big well done to all of the children who represented the school on the day. Well done to Maud, Arlo, Sienna, Benji, Jayden and Sofia. A superb effort!

Young Voices / Urban Strides

Earlier this year you may remember that we took a choir of children to sing with 5000 other children at the Birmingham NEC as part of the Young Voices project. It was an amazing experience with lots of singing as you'd expect. But there was also some dancing and the dance troop from the NEC made an offer to come to some of the schools to do a dance workshops. We naturally applied thinking this would be a great opportunity. We were successful and so last week the children who took part in Young Voices had the chance to attend the workshop with '*Urban Strides*'. They had a great time alongside the other USF schools learning lots of moves and performing. I think we may have some future break dancers in our school!

House Point Winners

At the end of each year we total up all of the housepoints which have been collected across the year. We also add in the points from Sports Day to find out which house has earned the most housepoints.

This year it was close between two of the houses but a huge well done to Wembury for all of their hard work.

Art Competition

Every year we enter a local art competition which is open to other local primary schools. The competition has an environmental theme and this year, the theme was '*One River, Many Landscapes*'.

Everyone in school had the opportunity to do a piece of artwork but we are only able to enter three pieces of work which get displayed in the YEM tent and the Yealmpton Show later this month. If you are going to the show, please take the time to visit the YEM tent to see all of the artwork which will be on display.

https://www.yealmptonshow.co.uk/

This year, the three winners in school were Sophie, Layla and Harriet. Here are their winning pictures.

Layla (Y5)

Sophie (Y6)

e8

Harriet (Y1)

After the show, we will find out if any of them will win a prize from their work. Fingers crossed.

Y6 Goodbye

We always feel sad to have to say goodbye to our Y6 children when it comes to the end of the Summer Term. This Y6 cohort have been with me right the way through school and so I feel very proud and happy to see how they navigated their primary school years from the very start to the end.

Leaving at the end of Y6 can be a daunting prospect for the children. On the one hand they are ready to go. They have achieved well and giving it 100%. They have experienced transition days at their new schools and have that excitement about what is waiting for them in September. On the other hand, it is a moment of realisation for many of them, and for the parents and carers involved too, that they are going to be moving on to a new challenge. For some parents and carers, we know that when their child leaves this week, it also brings an end to their association with St. Mary's and so we also with them well and thank them for their support over the years.

But we also know, that our children leave St. Mary's with a really positive start to their school lives. We know we have given them some really good skills and knowledge to give them the perfect start to their next step. We also hope that they will still come back and see us from time to time.

We wish them well and know that they will be stars in whatever they go on to in the future.

Well done Y6!

Dates for the Diary

As more dates are confirmed we will let you know.

Thursday 23rd July	End of Year service at the church from 11.00am
Thursday 23rd July	Party on the Playground (FOBS)
Thursday 23rd July	Final day of the summer term.
SUMMER HOLIDAY	
Thursday 3rd September	start of the new school year

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…. Goodbye from me!

St Mary's really has been a huge part of my life in the last 7 ½ years. Like I said in my previous letter to you all, I have really enjoyed driving down from Torbay every day since I started here in February 2019. I have made many good friends in Brixton as well as being the Head of School to an AMAZING group of children and staff. People who visit the school and venues that we travel to for school trips, all recognize what a nice bunch of people we all are together and that is a credit to everyone involved with the school. We get so many positive comments which makes me feel proud of everyone and reassures me that we, alongside you at home, put in a great deal of effort to make the best people who will have a positive impact on the community and the wider world in whatever they choose to do in their future lives.

I have so many memories that I take away with me from my time here in Brixton and I can only wish everyone associated with the school, all the very best as the next chapter begins. Ms White will be an excellent addition to the school and I know that you will make her feel welcome as she begins a new and exciting chapter in her life too.

I remember on day one of my time here, a parent of one of the older children who had experienced a number of heads during their time with the school, looked me in the eye and said, '*so how long have we got*

you for?' I think they assumed I would be here for a short time too like previous Heads. So, after all of the years of being here at St. Mary's I can honestly say that the school will be an important moment in my life that I look back on with a great deal of fondness and appreciation. It has included some very difficult times, especially through the Covid years, but St. Mary's has always had an excellent spirit that comes from everyone associated with the school. This spirit has driven the school to this point and I know it will continue to drive it forward in the years that follow.

Thank you to all of you for your support over the years and I look forward to seeing the children in the coming years as we meet up at events across the wider federation.

Have a fantastic summer. Be safe and be happy!

Adrian Clements

Head of School

FOBS

BRIXTON ST MARY'S

SUMMER SEND OFF

FAREWELL TO MR CLEMENTS & THE CLASS OF 2026

THURSDAY 23RD JULY

3.15–5.00pm

DRINKS ~ HOTDOGS ~ GAMES

HOUSE COLOUR RAFFLE

BOTTLE TOMBOLA

HOOK A DUCK ~ ICE CREAM

INFLATABLE ASSAULT COURSE +BOUNCY CASTLE

UNLIMITED BOUNCY FUN
£5 PER CHILD

PURCHASE YOUR BOUNCE WRISTBANDS
IN ADVANCE IN THE PLAYGROUND
FROM MONDAY 20TH JULY ~
PLEASE SEE FOBS VOLUNTEER FOR DETAILS

FUN! ZONE
T PLAY & INFLATABLE HIR