



Mrs Frances Guppy, Executive Head Teacher.
Mr Paul Melling, Assistant Head Teacher.
Mrs Kate Middleton, Assistant Head Teacher.

14 September

Newsletter no.1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first school newsletter of the Autumn Term.

The children have settled back into school well and are working hard in their lessons. The new Reception children are steadily building up their time in school, and will be full-time with us from next week. The classes have all completed their individual Class Charter, setting out their expectations for behaviour and learning within their class environment. These charters will then be used to link into a Whole-School Charter. The School Council will discuss their thoughts and it will be ratified in the new Choices Policy.

Friday assembly has changed format slightly, with one pupil per class being awarded a Star of the Week. A Star of the Week award is for a pupil's effort in all aspects of school life. As a leadership team we will not know who that person is until we read the certificate out in assembly, as staff within the class will choose a pupil and write the certificate.

Children are working towards Head Teacher Awards, and will be presented with the award in the Friday Celebration assembly once they have filled their Head Teacher Award sheet. Children will build up merits in order to achieve the award, and these can be given out by any member of staff in line with the Choices Policy, and to promote our culture of positive praise. Parents will be invited to attend and watch the presentation of this award.

We would like to say thank you for your support in the change to end of day collection. It looks to be working well and is helping to keep children safe.

We look forward to sharing with you some of our upcoming events, and will be sending a list out shortly.

Future newsletters will be sent via email. If you have not received this newsletter via email please let the School Office know and they will update your email address.

Parking - IMPORTANT REMINDER

Could I please remind you that no parent has permission to park in the Church car park or front playground. The only exceptions to this are:

- Any parent who is displaying a blue disability parking badge may park in the Church car park.
- Parents dropping off children for early morning clubs may drop them off in the Church car park and then leave immediately.

Could I also remind you not to pull into next door's drive way to drop children off on the road as this is private property.

School Dinners

If your child would prefer the Jacket Potatoes or Vegetarian option which are available each lunchtime please let the office know .

Please can KS2 parents make sure their Parentpay account is topped up in advance.

Living, loving and learning with God

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PE Kit list

Your child will need the following kit in school for all sessions (Including KS2 Thursday After School Club)

Yellow school PE shirt

Blue shorts or skirts

Trainers (PLIMSOLES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR OUTDOOR PE SESSIONS!!!)

Optional

Blue school jogging bottoms

Blue school zipped hooded top

Football boots & shin pads for children going to football club

School Uniform

School bags, ties and bookbags are available from the school office. All other items are available via School Trends.

The deadline date for ordering uniform via www.SchoolTrends.co.uk is tomorrow – Thursday 15th September . The delivery should be received by school within 2 weeks

The Axe Valley Community College Open Day for Year 6 – tomorrow !

Open day and evening on Thursday 15th September. Tours of school are 9am,11.30am, and 2.15. Evening presentation is at 6.30pm.

Music

Instrumental lessons

Most instrumental lessons got underway this week. Brass lessons will start the week beginning 19th September. If your child would like to learn an instrument, please contact the office and they will pass on the music teacher's details. Can I ask that parents tell the music teachers of any change in timetabling they are aware of and that they bring their instrument, music and their notebook to all lessons? If you have any queries about your child please contact their instrumental teacher in the first instance.

Memorial Concert

I have been asked if some of our violinists would play in a memorial concert for Hilary Juster who was a member of the Axe Vale Orchestra and died over the summer of cancer. Hilary's two daughters, Miranda and Edwina learnt the violin with Wendy Harbour and the Axe Vale Suzuki Group, which is where I (Mrs Burrough) learnt to play my violin. One of the very first pieces you learn with the Suzuki Method is Twinkle, and Jane Godbear, a member of Axe Vale Orchestra who is organising the concert, has asked if I could get a group of young violinists together to play Twinkle and Twinkle Variations at the concert. It is on Saturday 29th October at 3pm. I also offered that a group of more advanced students play another piece from the Suzuki books (from memory!). Mrs Orr-Ewing will be teaching the pieces during your child's lessons. Please save the date. I will send out a letter with more details nearer the time.

Exam Success

We had a great many children take music exams last summer and they all passed with great results. Well done to everyone who took music exams, we are really proud of your achievements.

Flute :Abi, Grade One, Freya, Grade One, Florence, Grade One

Singing : Dylan Grade One

Cello: Penelope, Grade One

Viola: Bethany, Grade One

Violin: Abi, Grade One, Eleanor, Grade Two, Raine Kirk, Grade Two, Oriel, Grade Three, Hannah, Grade Three, Chirathi, Grade Three

Exciting News for the Choir

David House, the head of music from Colyton Grammar School has asked that our school choir join his choir at Colyton for their 'Cathedral Concert' at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 25th March in the evening. Please put this date in your diary. We will be performing an African inspired work 'Zimbe' by Alexander L'Estrange. During the rehearsals nearer the time we will be working with the composer. This is such an excellent and exciting opportunity for the choir. I am asking that all choir members commit to choir as we will be starting to learn this piece in the autumn term and it needs to be learnt off by heart. Prompt arrival at choir at 8:15 will also be welcomed.

Sports

Congratulations

Our school has been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Mark Gold award for our commitment to the development of competition in school sport. This is a great achievement and acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the teaching staff at St Mary's.

PE Day Wednesdays

On Wednesdays the children are asked to wear their PE kit to school ALL DAY so as to maximize PE time during lessons. Each class will be doing gymnastics with their class teacher. As the days get colder your child will need to wear navy tracksuit bottoms and a navy tracksuit top. We have navy tracksuit tops with the school logo available in the office to buy. Please make sure your child's PE kit is in school the very next day for their other PE lessons. It is really important that they wear proper uniform for PE.

Sports Dates for your diary

Monday 26th September	Cross Country for ALL children in Years 3 and 4, 1:30pm-3pm.
Tuesday 4th October	High Fives Netball Tournament at Axe Valley 4pm-5:45pm (invited children only)
Wednesday 5th October	Cross Country at Stockland School , 4pm for years 3/4 and 5/6 , four boys and four girls in each team. (invited children only)
Thursday 6th October	Robin and Woodpecker Classes, Multiskills Festival at Colyton Grammar School, 10:30-12pm
Tuesday 11th October	Year 5/6 swimming gala, 12:30-3:00, Flamingo Pool (invited children only)
Thursday 20th October	Go Ride Cycling at Bicton College for Years 5/6 (a team of 4 boys and 4 girls), 10:30pm-3pm. (invited children only)
Thursday 27th October	KS2 Tag Rugby Interhouse Competition (pm)
Monday 14th November	Year 6 PE Academy Workshop 1:30-3:30pm (invited children only)
Wednesday 16th November	Year 5/6 Autumn Ability Games, Barnstable, 10am-2pm (invited children only)
Wednesday 18th November	Cross Country at Stockland School , 4pm for years 3/4 and 5/6 , four boys and four girls in each team (as on Wednesday 5th October)
Wednesday 23rd November	Sports Hall Athletics for Year 5 and 6, Axe Valley, 4pm-5:30pm. (invited children only)
Monday 28th November	Owl Class Gymnastics Festival 10:00-11:45am.
Wednesday 7th December	Move, Make and Motivate (times and venues to be confirmed) (invited children only)

We will also be inviting coaches from Axminster Tigers to run a short coaching session and an interhouse football tournament in the second half of term after their very successful visit last summer.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 27 September	Axe Valley School Presentation at St Mary's for Years 5 & 6 4.30pm
Thursday 29 September	Woodroffe School open day 9.30- 12.30
Monday 24 to Friday 28 October	Half term
Friday 16 December	Last day of Autumn term