



St Mary's C of E Primary School & Nursery Newsletter – Issue 1 – 10/09/2021



Please note that should you wish to receive this newsletter in a different format please ask at the school office.

This term's Christian Value is Friendship:

“Encourage one another and build each other up.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11



September:

14th Individual's school Photos
30th School Council Elections (candidate speeches in class prior to this date)

October

13th Harvest Worship 9am and 2:30pm (please see below for further details)
4th-6th Years 5 + 6 to Kilve Court Outdoor Residential Centre
7th PTA meeting in the hall (with coffee and cake) at 6pm
20th PTA Film Night (more information to follow)
22nd End of Term 1

Parent Payments

Hooray for Parent Pay.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all parents for helping us make Parent Pay work!!!! We hope that parents are enjoying the new flexibility it offers in ordering meals and certainly from an office perspective it has already saved heaps of time.

We hope to continue to develop our use of this system and will be in future adding all trips, nursery fees etc. to Parent Pay. We will inform you when these changes are made. In preparation for future payments, should you not have activated your account, it may be a good idea to do it now.

In the meantime, please send payments for nursery or otherwise into the school office via your child in an envelope with your child's name on, what it is for and how much money is enclosed (cash or cheque).

Staffing Updates

Many of you will have already met Miss Norris, our fantastic new Class 3 teacher. We welcome her to our team and are very pleased she has joined us.

We are incredibly lucky to have Mrs Hallows join us in Key Stage One. Her job role is specifically to support children's reading in Year One, following a world recognised programme – Reading Recovery. She will additionally support Mrs Martin in the development of reading (and readers) across the school.

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Wilson who has been our office administrator since last November. We wish her well in her new position.

We welcome Miss Nia Presley, Office Manager from Mendip School, who is kindly supporting us with office administration. We look forward to appointing a permanent member of staff soon.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see all of the children in their smart school uniform. The addition of the new PE Uniform has meant so much for time is gained for lessons and children report that they prefer wearing this uniform to school on PE days. A reminder that our school uniform provider is: <http://gooddies.co.uk>



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School Camp



We are incredibly excited to be going to Kilve Court Residential Centre with our Year 5 and 6 next month. A letter has been sent home (Thursday) containing a kit list and medical form and information regarding any payments outstanding. Please email the office, or speak to Miss Golden or Ms Lampert should you require any further information.



Table Tennis Table - Help required please!

Children in Class 5 (when they were in Year 4) wrote VERY persuasive letters to local companies for donations to school. Over the summer Mrs Dobson received replies from a number of companies and wonderfully a donation of a Table Tennis Table to enhance playtimes.

Should anyone be able to construct this, very heavy, table for us we would be extremely grateful. Please let Ms Lampert or Mrs Dobson know.

Crossing Patrol Officer

As you know, we have been without a crossing patrol officer since June retired last year. Should you be interested or know somebody who may wish to take up this role there is more information on the BANES website.

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/road-safety/school-crossing-patrols>

Please take extra care when crossing near the shop as this junction is very tricky to navigate. We have spoken to Bath and North East Somerset to discuss this issue.

Letter from Emily Massey – CEO

Please see attached to this email, a letter from Emily at The Partnership Trust.

Photos NEXT WEEK

Nigel Coles, our school photographer, will be taking photos of **individual** children on Tuesday 14th September. ALL children should come into school in their smart school uniform on that day – even if Tuesday is usually a PE day. Those with children in Nursery who do not normally attend on Tuesday morning, please come to school at 9am and we will ensure that your child is photographed.

Nigel is able to also take **family photos** of children and we will organise that in school for the children who attend Nursery and School.

Should you wish to include **younger children/babies** in a family photo we ask that you go to the school hall from 8:15am and Nigel will take a family group photo on a first come first serve basis.

Clubs

We are still finalising the clubs letter for this term. Please look out for it coming home with your child next week. A huge 'thank you' to our volunteers who run clubs for the benefit of children at St Mary's. Please encourage your child to look at the clubs list and choose any clubs they would like to attend.



Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating the Harvest on Wednesday 13th October. This year to be able to accommodate parents in the hall we are holding two Harvest Festival Worship.



9am – Nursery and Years 1, 3, and 5
2.15 pm – Reception and Years, 2, 4, 6

Summer Reading Challenge

HUGE congratulations to Beth and Will from Year 6. Riley from Year 5, Seb from Year 3 and Felicity and Zack W from Year 2 for completing the Library's Summer Reading Challenge.

As we all know the more you read the better you'll get and certainly these children have shown commitment and determination in completing the challenge. And of course had a great time, immersed in new stories, as they have done so.



Building reading routines with your child

At the start of the year, it is timely to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular reading. The Book Trust sets out guidance on how to make this fun, suggests useful tips and advice about how to read as a family and advice on setting up a great bedtime routine.

Reading really is the cornerstone to learning; through books and reading children learn vocabulary that will enable them to access the curriculum. Continued practice ensures that children are able to read quickly and therefore read and understand more complicated texts.

Reading underpins much of the learning in school: we teach it in a variety of ways from guided reading to hearing individuals read, from phonics to reading comprehension.

THE MORE CHILDREN READ THE MORE PROGRESS THEY WILL MAKE!

Tips for reading with children of any age



- **Set aside some time** - Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.
- **Ask your child to choose a book** - Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
 - **Sit close together** - Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.
 - **Point to the pictures** - If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- **Encourage your child to talk about the book** - Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.
- **And lastly, above all - make it fun!** - It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!





Classroom updating over the summer

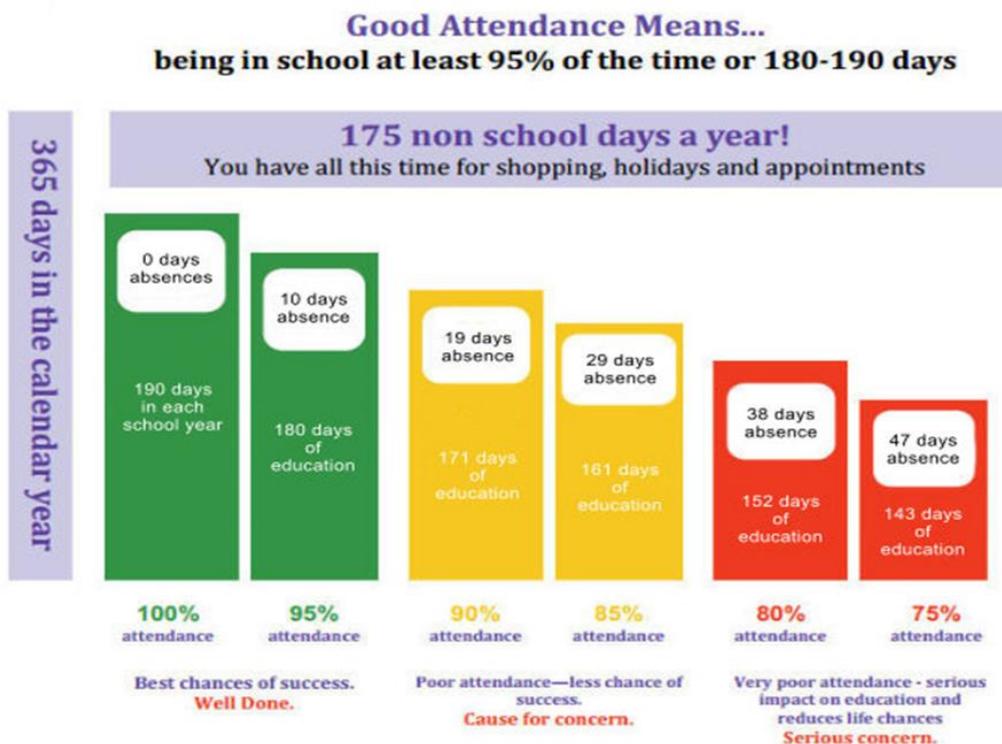
Children in Class 3 will have noticed a new, updated classroom on their return to school. Due to the constraints on school budgets, that I am sure you have read about in the press, much of this transformation was completed through donations and the hard work of Mr Hodges – one of the site team at St Mary's.

It really has made a dramatic difference to the learning environment.

In addition, we are extremely grateful to Wickes, of Midsomer Norton, who donated ALL the resources required. A generous donation which has made a big difference; thank you.

Attendance

We wish to bring the following to the attention of parents and carers. As a gentle reminder, attendance and absences are clearly documented below. Our aim would be for all children to be in school 100% of the time.



PTA

Please note the first PTA meeting of the year will be held in the school hall on Thursday 7th October at 6pm. We will be planning events for the year and discussing the Christmas Fayre. On joining the school, all parents and carers **automatically** become members of the PTA and we would warmly welcome everyone at the meeting (there will be cake!).

Should you not be able to attend due to work commitments, please let Ms Lampert or the office know and we will include you in the minutes. Additionally, if you would like to help out with the Christmas Fayre or other PTA events but cannot attend the meeting, please let us know: many hands make light work.

This year the PTA has:

- contributed to school trips (when possible)
- contributed to making the classrooms better learning environments for children through a donation to each class
- donated to make the 'Leavers' celebrations a memorable time for our Year 6 children

We are hoping to raise significant funds this year to develop our wonderful outdoor space further.