



Update Friday 18th September 2020
Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Osborne

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the weekend – let's hope the lovely weather continues and we can all spend lots of time enjoying the outdoors.

Although we are only three weeks into term, the children are all settled into their new groups and working hard. It's lovely to walk around the school and hear the 'buzz' of children and adults enjoying their learning.



Picking up at the end of the day:

Although the one-way system seems to be working well in the mornings, it's not quite as successful at the end of the day. Several of you have contacted me regarding concerns over social distancing and the volume of traffic on New Road. From Monday we will be allowing children and parents to leave from all three playground exits. However, I would respectfully request that all parents and carers consider social distancing requirements and leave the school grounds promptly and in individual family groups.

Parent Consultations:

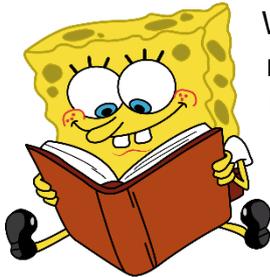
As mentioned in the last newsletter, at the moment we are having to restrict the number of visitors into school. Parents Consultations are traditionally scheduled for the last week of this half-term. However, this year we have decided to hold our consultations a little bit earlier and via telephone. The focus of this phone call will be to update you on your child/children's emotional well-being and the recovery curriculum. More details regarding how this will operate will be sent out next week.

Birthday Treats:



Please do not send your child to school with birthday sweets/treats at the moment as we are trying to minimise both items coming into school and social interactions. Thank you.

Homework:



We hope your child will enjoy our new style Homework. Please remember that Homework is due back in school on Monday. Reading is the most important activity you can complete with your child - little and often is the mantra!

Wear Yellow Day- Thursday 1st October:

A date for your diaries. On Thursday 1st October we will be 'wearing yellow' and focusing on our well-being and mental health. The children will be off timetable for the day and engaged in lots of activities, especially art and craft ones. This will also be a great opportunity for the children to reflect on their time back in school and how things have changed/remained the same.

No engines running in front of the school:

We'd like to thank Transition Town Berkhamsted for donating a replacement banner for the "No Idling" campaign. This allows us to continue to stand with the other schools in the Berkhamsted area, to inform about the issues of air pollution and politely ask the public to follow the law about not leaving engines running whilst vehicles are parked. This is a particular issue in front of the school grounds where children and parents walk to and from the school.

Collective Worship:

As current guidance means we are not able to hold whole school Collective Worship in the school hall we're having to be creative! For the past few weeks we have been 'Zooming' our worships around the school while different year groups take it in turns to come into the hall. Last week Jonathan took advantage of the lovely weather and delivered an outdoor worship with socially distanced KS2 bubbles – he even managed to mention football!



Harvest Festival:

Although we won't be able to invite parents this year we will be going to church and celebrating Harvest Festival. On Wednesday 7th October, each year group will have an individual visit to St Mary's Church and take part in a short service with Jonathan. (He's going to be a very busy man) More details will follow next week.

We need you!



We're always on the look-out for MSA staff to help out at lunchtime. It's a lovely job and an extremely valuable one. If you think you may be interested please contact the school office or have an informal chat with Mrs O'Dell our Lunchtime Supervisor.

From the School Association:

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We're still running the Sponsored Readathon so please submit your sponsorship money via the website <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/northchurchstmarys-schoolassociation>

We're also looking forward to receiving more recipes for the school cookbook along with photos! Please send to stmarys.northchurch.sa@gmail.com

Any second hand school uniform is always welcome - the box is by the school office and can be purchased via the website <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/northchurchstmarys-schoolassociation>

Treat Fridays are starting again soon. Following the email earlier this week please go to <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/northchurchstmarys-schoolassociation> to buy your Treat Friday passes and to find out dates.

Carries photos - always very popular! We have secured a date of Saturday October 17th to pop in your diaries - more details about booking to follow shortly.

We are currently planning lots of fun activities taking us through the autumn and towards the festive period - watch this space!

Thanks as always for your support.

School Association

Word of the week:

New for this term 'Word of the Week'.

Year 2's choice: **commutative**

Def: Commutativity is used in Maths equations and describes calculations that can be moved around and will still give the same answer

Have a lovely weekend Mrs Osborne and the staff team.