

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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'Where we believe in Learning for Life'

4th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carers

Hello and welcome to a new school year. I hope you have all had a good summer. We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards, gifts and best wishes received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting us with our school uniform; the children all look very smart and ready for learning!

Parent/Teacher Meetings

As you will have seen from the important dates contained in this letter, there are some Parent Teacher meetings coming up for classes 1 -6. Reception class parents have already had a group meeting and will have individual appointments with the class teachers during the first week. The meetings will take place in the classroom at 2:45pm and are an opportunity to hear about the year ahead including: curriculum, homework/reading, forthcoming trips/special weeks/events, ways to help at home and school, ways to raise concerns and ask questions

SPORT

We are working to provide ever more sporting opportunities for our pupils. As you know children in classes 1-6 participate in two PE lessons a week, one of these being led by Dominic Castle, our Sports Coach.

Please support us, and your child, by ensuring they have a full PE kit in school every day. As a minimum, all children need a pair of blue shorts, a white T-shirt, a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and a pair of trainers to work outside for children in class 3 to 6. These four items should be at school every day of the week and kept in a suitable draw string bag - NO carrier bags please.

We suggest that tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a warm top are brought in for outdoor games during the colder months.

I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter and look forward to seeing 100% sport participation at St Mary's!

READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

All children will bring home a reading book and reading contact book by 7th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 10th September for classes 1-6. Further information regarding homework and home reading expectations will be shared at the forthcoming parent/teacher meetings for Classes 1-6

(see dates below) and via the class newsletters. Reception class parent/carers – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from the school office.

We recognise that as they move into upper Key Stage 2 children will start to not use a reading book bag and ask, therefore, that parent/carers assist their children in looking after the books.

COLLECTIVE WORKSHIP

We hold a daily act of collection worship which all children attend.

On Fridays we have a 'Celebration Assembly'. Sometimes a class will perform at this and parent/carers of these children are invited in the weekly newsletter.

In addition, we celebrate birthdays every Friday – children who have a birthday from the Monday of the week to the Sunday are acknowledged. So, for example, on Friday 14th September, children who have birthdays which fall on Monday 10th – Sunday 16th September will be given a candle and sung to. You are invited to attend the relevant birthday assembly for your child.

SAFETY REMINDERS:

Cars

Please be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated. Car parking permits can be obtained from the school office for free parking during drop off and pick up times for the Woolcomber Street Car Park.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old. The children are supervised during the break and lunch times by staff when using it. The equipment is **NOT** to be used by any children before or after school hours

Morning and Afternoon Routines

In the morning children are to access the school building between 8.40 and 8.50am. This can be via the main entrance at Laureston Place or through the door on the lower key stage 2 corridor. The top playground is not to be used in the morning and children should be brought to the main entrance door by a parent/carer so that they can be safely handed over to the staff on duty; please ensure the footpath is used and not the drive.

All arrivals after 8.50am must report to the school entrance on Laureston Place for their name to be entered in the late book. The gates are locked from 9am.

At the end of the school day Key Stage 2 children are taken to the lower playground by the class staff and Key Stage 1 to the upper playground. The school gates are opened at 2.50pm so that parent/carers can be on site to collect their children. Please allow the staff to send children to you so that they can be sure the child is with who they should be.

If you have children in both key stages, please collect from the top playground first.

If you have children in Year 5 or 6 and you wish them to come to meet you on the top playground or leave school site without you, please let us know in writing.

If you have a child in Year 3 or 4 who needs to meet you on the top playground please let us know and they will be brought to you by a member of staff. Please note - all children staying to after school clubs must be collected at 4.15pm by a parent/carer/adult, they may not leave school alone.

Thank you for following these guidelines and for working with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.

TERM DATES

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time term dates for 2018/2019 have already been published, but I note these again below for ease of reference. Information regarding our five staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2018/2019

<u>TERM 1 2018</u>	Monday, 3 rd September – Friday, 19 th October 2018
<u>TERM 2 2018</u>	Monday, 29 th October – Wednesday, 19 th December 2018
<u>TERM 3 2019</u>	Thursday, 3 rd January – Friday, 15 th February 2019
<u>TERM 4 2019</u>	Monday, 25 th February – Friday, 5 th April 2019
<u>TERM 5 2019</u>	Tuesday, 23 rd April – Friday, 24 th May 2019
<u>TERM 6 2019</u>	Monday, 3 rd June – Tuesday, 23 rd July 2019

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Monday, 3rd September 2018
Monday, 29th October 2018
Thursday, 3rd January 2019
Friday, 4th January 2019
Friday, 24th May 2019

Important dates for 2018/2019 Academic Year

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

Term 1

04.09.18	Class R Parent Teacher Meeting - pm
06.09.18	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
10.09.18	Class 6 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
11.09.18	Class 4 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
12.09.18	Class 4 swim – Term 1
12.09.18	Class 5 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
13.09.18	Class 3 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
17.09.18	Class 2 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
18.09.18	Class 1 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
02.10.18	Harvest Festival at Church at 2pm – all classes
15.10.18	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3.30 and 5.30pm (by appointment)
16.10.18	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
18.10.18	School individual photographs

18.10.18 Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)

Term 2

31.10.18 Class 5 swim – Term 2

01.11.18 Open Event for prospective new parents at 2pm

13.11.18 Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 5.30pm (by appointment)

15.11.18 Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)

30.11.18 KS2 Theatre Trip

06.12.18 Ice Skating – Year 5 & 6

07.12.18 KS2 Christmas Disco

13.12.18 KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm

14.12.18 KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm

17.12.18 KS2 Carol Concert at 6pm at St Mary's Church

18.12.18 Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

18.12.18 Early Years & KS1 Cinema Trip

Term 3

12.02.19 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 4

05.03.19 Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 5:30pm (by appointment)

07.03.19 Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 5:30pm (by appointment)

01.04.19 Class Photographs

04.04.19 Easter Service at Church 9.30am

Term 5

06.05.19 May Day – School Closed

13.05.19 to 17.05.19 KS2 SATs week for Class 6

21.05.19 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 6

27.06.18 Sports Day

01.07.19 Orchestra Concert

09.07.19 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

17.07.19 Class 6 Play at 2pm

18.07.19 Class 6 Play at 6pm

23.07.19 Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church 9.20am

23.07.19 Year 6 Leavers picnic

Although this is a fairly full list of dates, it is not exhaustive and we will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to another successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



Ms H Comfort
Executive Headteacher