

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

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

Ms Helen Comfort
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'Learning for life with God as our guide'

5th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome Back!

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!

ParentMail

As per my letter of 2nd August, we are now using ParentMail. Thank you to those parents who have already verified their accounts in response to emails sent out over the Summer. If you have not yet verified your account please do so as soon as possible in order to ensure that you receive important information right from the beginning of term. You will, by now, have received either an email or text message from ParentMail to ask you to verify your account.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our Breakfast club starts week beginning 5th September. If you have not already done so and you would like to access this service, you will need to register your child. The Breakfast Club will then be available for you to use either on a regular or ad-hoc basis. Please see our website or email/telephone the school office to request a form.

'Meet the teacher'

As you will have seen in our End of Year letter parent/carers are invited into school on Thursday, 15th September at 3.15pm to visit the classroom to meet the teacher, say hello and have a look at their child's work. There will be a powerpoint on the screen showing relevant information – days for PE etc. – as well as a copy for you to take away. If you have more than one child at school you will be able to visit each class.

Sport

Children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school in a draw-string bag which they will keep on their peg. 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 or house colour 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.



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Reception Class will have PE every Thursday and should arrive at school on that day dressed in their PE Kit.

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

Water Bottles

Please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime.

READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

All children will bring home a reading book and Reading Record book by Friday, 16th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 12th September for classes 1-6. Further information regarding homework and home reading expectations will be shared at the forthcoming 'Meet the teacher' session.

Reception class parent/carers – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk. Remember to use our voucher code **STMDFC** for free delivery. These bags are essential in keeping our stock of reading books in good order.

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 WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of Collective 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 16th September, children who have birthdays which fall on Monday 12th – Sunday 18th September will be given a candle to bring home and sung to.

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. If you are travelling to school by car please note that the St James Retail Park allows 60 minutes free parking (this is any time during the day, but you will need to get a ticket from the machine) and there is no charge before 9am.

Mobile 'Phones

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old, pre-school children are not to use the play equipment at any time. The children are supervised during the break and



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lunch times by staff when using it. The equipment is **NOT** to be used by any children before or after school hours.

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 2022/2023, I note these below for ease of reference. Information regarding our staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2022/2023

TERM 1 2022	1 September 2022 – 21st October 2022
TERM 2 2022	31st October 2022- 16th December 2022
TERM 3 2023	3rd January 2023 - 10 February 2023
TERM 4 2023	20th February 2023 - 31st March 2023
TERM 5 2023	17th April 2023- 26th May 2023
TERM 6 2023	5th June 2023- 21st July 2023

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Thursday, 1st September 2022

Friday, 2nd September 2022

Monday, 31st October 2022

Tuesday, 3rd January 2023

Friday, 26th May 2023

Dates for 2022/2023 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 note however, that although events are planned, they are subject to change or cancellation.

Term 1

08.09.22	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
15.09.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
27.09.22	Harvest Festival at Church at 9.30am – all classes
06.10.22	Individual Pupil School Photographs
14.10.22	Class 2 Family Assembly
19.10.22	Class 6 Parent consultations 3:30pm to 6pm re: secondary school applications
20.10.22	Class 6 Parent consultations 3:30pm to 5:30pm re: secondary school applications

Term 2

08.11.22	Parental Consultations (Classes R to 5) between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
10.11.22	Parental Consultations (Classes R to 5) between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)
11.11.22	Class 4 Family Assembly
18.11.22	Children in Need Day
01.12.22	KS2 Pantomime trip to the Marlowe Theatre
02.12.22	KS2 Christmas Disco 4:30 – 6pm
07.12.22	KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm



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08.12.22	KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm
09.12.22	Christingle Service
12.12.22	Class R and KS1 Cinema trip
13.12.22	KS2 Carol Concert at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church
14.12.22	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
14.12.22	Class R and KS1 Cinema Trip
15.12.22	Christmas Party Day

Term 3

20.01.23	Class 6 Family Assembly
27.01.23	Class 3 Family Assembly
03.02.23	NSPCC Number Day
09.02.23	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

Term 4

02.03.23	World Book Day
10.03.23	Class 1 Family Assembly
14.03.23	Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 6.00pm (by Appointment)
16.03.23	Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 5.30pm (by Appointment)
25.03.23	Class 3 Family Assembly
30.03.23	Easter Service at St Mary's Church at 9:45am

Term 5

01.05.23	BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
w/b 08.05.23	KS2 SATs week for Class 6
19.05.23	Class R Family Assembly
25.05.23	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

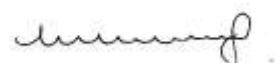
Term 6

19.06.23	Parent/Carer Consultations (Class 5) re: Kent Test
22.06.23	Sports Day at 1:30pm
28.06.23 & 29.06.23	Reserve Sports Day
23.06.23	Class 5 Family Assembly
13.07.23	Class 6 Play at 2pm and 6pm
18.07.23	Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church 10am

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



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