

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 2023

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!

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our Breakfast club has now started for the year. 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' for Classes 1 - 6

Parent/carers are invited into school on Thursday, 14th 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 Classes 3 to 6. These 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.

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.



Canterbury Diocesan
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READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

All children will bring home a reading book and Reading Record book by Friday, 8th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 11th 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 Collective Worship'. Sometimes a class will perform at this and parent/carers of these children are invited to attend. These dates are shown below and reminders are sent nearer the time.

Class R – Friday, 10th May 2024

Class 1 – Friday, 15th March 2024

Class 2 – Friday, 13th October 2023

Class 3 – Friday, 26th January 2024

Class 4 – Friday, 10th November 2023

Class 5 – Friday, 21st June 2023

Class 6 – Friday, 19th January 2024

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 15th September, children who have birthdays which fall on Monday 11th – Sunday 17th 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 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 2023/2024, 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 2023/2024

TERM 1 2023	1 September 2023 – 20 October 2023
TERM 2 2023	30 October 2023- 15 December 2023
TERM 3 2024	2 January 2024 - 9 February 2024
TERM 4 2024	19 February 2024 - 28 March 2024
TERM 5 2024	15 April 2024- 24 May 2024
TERM 6 2024	3 June 2024 - 23 July 2024

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Friday, 1 September 2023
Monday, 4 September 2023
Monday, 30 October 2023
Tuesday, 2 January 2024
Friday, 24 May 2024

Dates for 2023/2024 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

07.09.23	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
14.09.23	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
03.10.23	Harvest Festival at Church at 9.30am – Classes 1 - 6
06.10.23	Be SmART day
13.10.23	Class 2 Family Collective Worship
16.10.23	Individual Pupil School Photographs

Term 2

10.11.23	Class 4 Family Collective Worship
17.11.23	Children in Need Day
21.11.23	Parental Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
23.11.23	Parental Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)
01.12.23	KS2 Christmas Disco 4:30 – 6pm
06.12.23	Reception Class Christmas event 2:15pm
07.12.23	KS1 Infant Nativity 2:15pm
08.12.23	Christingle Service
11.12.23	Class R and KS1 Cinema trip
11.12.23	KS2 Carol Concert at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church
12.12.23	KS2 Pantomime trip to the Marlowe Theatre



13.12.23 Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
14.12.23 Christmas Party Day

Term 3

19.01.24 Class 6 Family Collective Worship
26.01.24 Class 3 Family Collective Worship
02.02.24 NSPCC Number Day
08.02.24 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

Term 4

07.03.24 World Book Day
12.03.24 Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 6.00pm (by Appointment)
14.03.24 Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 5.30pm (by Appointment)
15.03.24 Class 1 Family Collective Worship
26.03.24 Easter Service at St Mary's Church at 9:30am

Term 5

06.05.24 BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
10.05.24 Class R Family Collective Worship
w/b 13.05.24 KS2 SATs week for Class 6
23.05.24 Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

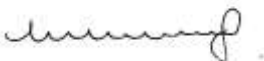
Term 6

17.06.24 Parent/Carer Consultations (Class 5) about Process for Entry to Secondary Education (PESE)
18.06.24 Sports Day for Classes R, 1 and 2 at 1:30pm
20.06.24 Sports Day for Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6
21.06.24 Class 5 Family Collective Worship
02.07.24 Reserve Sports Day for Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6
03.07.24 Reserve Sports Day for Classes R, 1 & 2
16.07.24 Class 6 Play at 6pm
18.07.24 Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church 10am
22.07.24 Class 6 Prom 4:30pm to 6pm

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

