

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

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**'Learning for life with God as our guide'**

4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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 Wednesday, 11th 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 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.



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## **READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK**

All children will bring home a reading book and Reading Record book by Friday, 6th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 9th 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](http://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, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Class 1 – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Class 2 – Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Class 3 – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Class 4 – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Class 5 – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Class 6 – Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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 14<sup>th</sup> September, children who have birthdays which fall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September will be given a candle to bring home and will be sung to by the school.

## **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.

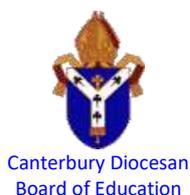
### **Mobile 'Phones**

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 2024/2025 are noted 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 2024/2025**

TERM 1 2024	2 September 2024 - 25 October 2024
TERM 2 2024	4 November 2024 - 20 December 2024
TERM 3 2025	6 January 2025 - 14 February 2025
TERM 4 2025	24 February 2025 – 4 April 2025
TERM 5 2025	22 April 2025 - 23 May 2025
TERM 6 2025	2 June 2025 - 22 July 2025

### **Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)**

2nd September 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
23rd May 2025  
21st July 2025  
22nd July 2025

The school year will finish for all children on **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**.

### **Dates for 2024/2025 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**

02.09.24	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
03.09.24	Children return to school for Term 1
11.09.24	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
12.09.24	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
16.09.24	Swimming for Year 6 starts
03.10.24	Harvest Festival at 9.30am – Classes 1 – 6
11.10.24	Class 2 Family Collective Worship
24.10.24	SEND Coffee Morning
25.10.24	Last day of Term 1

#### **Term 2**

04.11.24	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
05.11.24	Children return to school for Term 2
05.11.24	Primary School Applications Open for Reception Class September 2025
06.11.24	Swimming for Year 5 starts
07.11.24	Individual Pupil School Photographs
08.11.24	Class 4 Family Collective Worship
w/b 11.11.24	Mental Health and Wellbeing Week



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15.11.24	Children in Need Day
25.11.24	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
26.11.24	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes R, 3 & 6) between 1:15 and 3:15pm (by appointment)
27.11.24	KS2 Pantomime trip
28.11.24	Parental Consultations (Classes 1, 2, 4 & 5) between 1:15 and 3:15pm (by appointment)
03.12.24	Class R and KS1 Cinema trip
06.12.24	KS2 Christmas Disco 3:30 – 5pm
11.12.24	Reception Class Christmas event 2:15pm
12.12.24	KS1 Infant Nativity 2:15pm
17.12.24	KS2 Carol Concert - 1:30pm
18.12.24	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
19.12.24	Christmas Party Day
19.12.24	SEND Coffee Morning
20.12.24	Last Day of Term 2

### Term 3

06.01.25	Children return to school for Term 3
15.01.25	Primary School Applications Close for Reception Class September 2025
17.01.25	Class 6 Family Collective Worship
24.01.25	Class 3 Family Collective Worship
05.02.25	Book Fair Opens
07.02.25	NSPCC Number Day
11.02.25	Last Day of Book Fair
12.02.25	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
13.02.25	SEND Coffee Morning
14.02.24	Last Day of Term 3

### Term 4

24.02.25	Children return to school for Term 4
06.03.25	World Book Day
14.03.25	Class 1 Family Collective Worship
17.03.25	Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 6.00pm (by Appointment)
18.03.25	Parental Consultations (Classes R, 3 & 6) between 1:15 and 3:15pm (by appointment)
20.03.25	Parental Consultations (Classes 1, 2, 4 & 5) between 1:15 and 3:15pm (by appointment)
01.04.25	Easter Service, morning
01.04.25	Easter Egg Hunt 3:15pm
03.04.25	SEND Coffee Morning
04.04.25	Last Day of Term 4

### Term 5

21.04.25	Easter Monday – children do not attend school
22.04.25	Children return to school for Term 5
01.05.25	Class Photographs
05.05.25	BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
09.05.25	Class R Family Collective Worship

