

St. Mary's Mail



Date: 11th September 2020 Issue 1 Bi- Weekly News from St. Mary's

Dates For Your Diary

Welcome back to all of our families. I want to reiterate the message that I sent out last week and say how wonderful it is to be back in school together. It's remarkable how quickly the children have settled back in.

Now that school has resumed, we will be sending out our school newsletter bi-weekly. We will use this platform to inform you of any changes to systems, provide key messages and celebrate the many wonderful things that are happening in school.

Bethan Scriven

School Drop off and Collection

In the guidance laid out by the government, schools have been asked to stagger start and end times. At St Mary's we have elected to arrange this using children's surnames as this enabled us to:

- Restrict the number of people on site
- Restrict the number of people gathered in one area at any one time e.g. by classroom door
- Enable parents to bring siblings to school at the same time
- Enable teacher to better manage handwashing.

We are all still finding our way but on the whole the system seems to be working effectively and is achieving our main goal of enabling families to be able to socially distance at drop off and collection times.

Whilst we put these controls in place, we are not able to manage people's behaviour and therefore we appeal to you to ensure that you are maintaining a 2m distance from one another at all times.

We will continue to monitor and make any necessary adjustments to the system.



Meet the Teacher

Last week you would have received Zoom details of our Meet the Teacher sessions. Thank you to the Y3/4 parents who persevered with us as we navigated some technical difficulties at the first meeting! Please do log in.

KS1 Provision and exciting new environment

We have been fortunate to work alongside the school improvement partner Geraldine Tidy and are very excited to be using play based provision in key stage 1. For our Year 1 children, this will build on the children's previous experiences in the foundation stage and will support a smooth transition into Key Stage 1. This is particularly important this year in the current situation. For our Year 2 children, this will provide an opportunity to consolidate their prior learning and re-engage their thirst for learning. Children will have the opportunity to work both indoors and outdoors in small teacher guided groups, independently and as a whole class.



During the first 3 weeks of term, the children will have the opportunity to explore the different environments and adults will be spending a lot of time modelling expectations. We will be sharing lots of photos of the children's explorations on our school Dojo page for you to be able to follow the journey.

New Reception Open Days

We are currently in the process of planning how we will organise the open day for the 2021 reception starters. We will be holding a range of online sessions as well as inviting very small groups into school outside opening hours. We will be sending out information as to what this will look like and how to book a session, in the next week. We ask that you share this information with anyone you know with a preschool child.

Friends of St Mary's School

Every year the Friends work incredibly hard to plan events to bring our community together and raise money for the school.

Whilst events may look a little different this year, we will certainly benefit from having a committee. In early October we will be holding our AGM and will be looking for volunteers to put their names forward to become committee members. The core committee is made up of a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and a Secretary. If you think you have the necessary skills and would like to be involved we would love to hear from you. Our current committee will be sending out information in the coming weeks explaining how you can get

2019/2020 Term Dates

- Term 1** 1st Sept — 23rd Oct 2020
- Term 2** 2nd Nov — 18th Dec 2020
- Term 3** 4th Jan — 12th Feb 2021
- Term 4** 22nd Feb — 1st April 2021
- Term 5** 19th Apr — 28th May 2021
- Term 6** 7th June — Wed 21st July 2021

INSET Days

- Tuesday 1st September 2020
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Friday 4th December 2020
- Monday 15th March 2020
- Friday 25th June 2020