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September 2022 Newsletter

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Collective worship

In light of the Queen passing away, we have altered our planned collective worships. We have used the guidance that the Diocese of Peterborough created for schools which celebrated the life of the Queen and all her achievements, explained the changes to the nation and talked sensitively about funerals. The children have had reflection time both in class and in worship time.

School timings

The times of the school day will be 8:45am-3:15pm for **ALL** classes from September with access through the same gates that we have now. Gates will close promptly to ensure maximum learning time for the children. Please ensure that your child arrives on time. Please also make sure that children are sensible outside of the school gates, we have had many complaints from neighbours about people looking in their windows, knocking on doors and being rude to adults.

Earrings and PE

We are proud of the importance that PE and sport has at St. Mary's. To help us to continue this, please ensure that your child is well equipped to take part in PE lessons. Earrings should be removed on PE days. If they are not removed, children should be able to remove these themselves as staff cannot do this for them. (We ask that ears are pierced at the beginning of a summer holiday only). Please also ensure that children have PE kit in school for both indoor and outdoor weather.

PE Kit

As the weather turns colder please ensure your child is suitable prepared for both indoor and outdoor PE lessons.

This includes plimsolls/trainers, blue shorts, joggers/leggings, white t-shirt and a sky-blue PE jumper.

We also advise pupils have gloves and a rainproof jacket.

Please ensure PE kit remains in school throughout the week.

For safety reasons pupils will need to be able to remove their earrings and tie long hair back.

Recently we have seen an increase in pupils wearing fitness tracker watches, which is great. Active minutes is something we promote in school and we recognise that such tools assist in motivating and educating individuals. We understand pupils wish to wear their fitness tracker watches during PE and sports activities, for safety purposes we require them to be covered by a sweat band.

PE is a valued part of our Pupil's education, we thank you for your support in ensuring they are suitably prepared for their physical education.

Healthy School Ethos

We have continued to utilise the field at lunchtimes and pupils have expressed their appreciation of the use of peer v peer organised football matches.

Year 6 children have had the opportunity to apply to be sports leaders. Those who have been selected will access leadership training in the next few weeks. They will then be given the opportunity to lead active lunchtime activities to their younger peers, something they are eager to start.

Daily Mile

All classes have continued to take part in the daily mile initiative each week. This initiative encourages pupils to be active for 15 minutes to contribute to the daily recommendation of 60 active minutes per day. We will also be launching skip to fit in the next few weeks.

School Sports Competitions

Last year, 192 pupils represented our school in an inter school sports competitions.

We have again joined the Kettering School Sports Partnership in order to attend inter school competitions again this year. We aim to allow opportunities for as many pupils to attend as possible.

This term we will be attending year 3/4 Tag Rugby festival, year 5/6 Tag Rugby competition and years 3-6 cross country competition.

Sports Clubs

We are pleased to offer several extra-curricular sports clubs again this term.

These clubs are great to allow children to be active, socialise and advance their PE education by inputting their skills into sport specific scenarios.

There are still spaces available on most clubs, please book via Parent Mail.

Clubs are FREE this term to allow pupil to try a variety of activities.

Mondays 8.00-8.45 - Archery- Yrs. R-6

Mondays 3.20-4.20 - Mini Sports- Yrs. R-2

Tuesdays 8.00-8.45- Gymnastics- Yrs. R-2

Tuesdays 3.20-4.20- Dodgeball- Yrs. 3-6

Wednesdays 8.00-8.45 Kick Boxing- Yrs. R-6

Wednesday 3.20-4.20- Girls Football- Yrs2-6

Thursday 8.00-8.45- Gymnastics - Yrs. 3-6

Thursdays 3.20-4.20- Tag Rugby- Yrs. 3-6

Fridays 8.00-8.45- Dance- Yrs. R-6

Fridays 3.20-4.20- Football- Yrs. R-6

Homework

Homework for years 1-6 has now been posted on the google classroom. We structure this so that all children (regardless of their academic ability or access to technology) can complete this at their own level. We also leave it more open ended so the children can choose how to present their homework in a style that suits them. If you have any questions, or need any help with homework, please contact Mrs. Reynolds via the school office.

Parent Forum

Our next meeting is Monday 3rd October at 9am. We would love to see as many parents attend as possible.

What is the Parent Forum?

It's a partnership between parents/carers and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvements. Schools work best when they work in partnership with parents/carers. Tea and biscuits will be provided.

If you would like to be a part of the Parent Forum but cannot attend on this date, please let the office know and we will ensure you are kept up to date.

Walk in Wednesday

Our next Walk in Wednesday will be all about reading. There is a slightly different format to this as we are inviting parents into the hall at 2:45pm (via the school office) to hear more about reading from our English leaders before having time in their child's classroom to look at their work. If you cannot attend, our information will be posted on the google classrooms after the event.

If you have more than one child, please feel free to visit each of your children's classrooms and exit via the school office.

What is Walk in Wednesday?

The first Wednesday of the month is a chance for you to come into school and see your child's class teacher and look at the work the children have been doing. We also take this opportunity to tell you more about the school and the curriculum the children receive. It's a chance for you to ask any questions and spend time in the environment your children experience each day.

Google Classroom

The Google Classroom is an important link between the classroom, students and home for all year groups. It is where the children will be able to find their homework, spellings, as well as the various notices and reminders that class teachers make throughout the school year.

We also post information about any meetings you may have missed such as walk in Wednesday.

It is easy to access your child's/children's Google Classroom.

On a computer, load the Google homepage and log in using your child's school email and password (please contact the school if you do not have these). Once logged in, click the 9 dots in the top right corner of the page and select the Google Classroom tab. This will take you to the classrooms that your child/children have been enrolled in. If there is nothing showing, use the 9 dots again to access the child's school email where there should be an invitation to their classes Google Classroom.

From a phone or tablet the process is different as the Google Classroom app must be downloaded. Again, when you access the Google Classroom, the class your child is enrolled into should appear. If it does not, you should access their school email for the invitation.

Please do not change your child's password at any time - we regularly use the computers in school and their logins are how the children access the computers. Changing their login details in any way will affect their learning!

Should you have any difficulty, please contact the school and we will do our best to help.

Recent meetings

Over the last few weeks, we have held information evenings for EYFS, year 1 phonics and year 6 (SATS and Govilon). If you were unable to attend these, the information will be posted on your child's google classroom. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or email the office.

Awards galore for St. Mary's

Anti-bullying

After the pandemic, we wanted to make sure that all the children across our school felt they were returning to a safe, happy environment. A team of Year 6 pupils volunteered to sign up to the Anti-Bullying Alliance 'United Against Bullying' programme, where we were supported to carry out an audit on our anti-bullying practice and procedures within the school, including a survey on the wellbeing of all children in the school from Years 1-6. From this, the Year 6 pupils decided that the priority should be about 'making sure all children feel like they belong in our school' and set about developing a programme of activities to support this. They felt the strongest way that this could be achieved was through the message of 'be kind, always'. They named themselves 'Kindness Ambassadors', and ran an awareness campaign across the school, including delivering assemblies, creating displays, and becoming a visible presence on the playground. They ran several projects across the school, including challenges, competitions, and organising 'Kindness week', in which every class was invited to take part in kindness themed activities, games and puzzles across the week.

After delivering the wellbeing survey for a second time, the results showed fantastic positive feedback from pupils across the school. The level of wellbeing of all children in the school had improved, with decreases in worries about bullying and increases in happiness, safety and belonging.

We are proud to say that this has earned the school the Silver Award from the Anti-Bullying Alliance. As their final task, the Kindness Ambassadors have recruited a new intake of children to continue the

wonderful work they have put in place. This year we have also signed up with the Diana Awards, and our new intake of Kindness Ambassadors will be receiving official training to create an even safer, kinder school.

Sports

I am delighted to inform you that due to our commitment and quality of delivery of PE, school sports and ensuring opportunities to promote a healthy/active school setting we have been awarded GOLD in the school games mark.

This is the highest award we could receive.

If your child is enjoying their club and you wish to find a community club to progress to, please contact Mrs Patrick for advice on club links.



PTFA News

Please like, share and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk

❖ Christmas Cards

Your children have worked very hard designing beautiful festive cards already! Their designs and instructions on how to order will be sent out soon. This year there will be online orders only.

The deadline for orders is Thursday 13th October. Be sure to order in time as, there is NO option to order after this date.

❖ New Members Needed!

We are trying our best to bring you great events, fundraising activities you want, and buy the items our children will love and benefit from most. We need more help!

Can you help at a disco?

Can you build a bug hotel or storytellers chair?

Can you wash uniform donations?

Can you track our money on excel?

Can you come for a coffee and help with ideas for Christmas activities?

Can you pour coffee? Post Facebook pictures? Design posters? Dig up weeds? Wrap Christmas presents?

Type meeting minutes? Dance with kids at the discos? Are you first aid trained? Help us choose what to spend our money on!

Please step forward! Come to our next meeting, or message us on Facebook, ask Mrs Reynolds who to talk to, or say hi if you know one of us!

❖ Spending - £8,000!!!

Thanks to everyone's hard work over the last couple of years, we have been able to order a brand new £8,000 timber trim trail for the outdoor playground!

Our children are very fortunate to have such wonderful school grounds, and we are excited to be able to enhance their playtimes with new climbing frames.

A huge thank you to Kevin and 365 Elite and Gas for paying for a digger and taking the time out to remove the old frame. We plan to reuse as much of the rotten timber as possible for bug hotels in the wildlife area.

Kevin, with the great help of Mr Laughton, saved us £1,000 in removal costs, meaning we could spend more

on the equipment!

www.365elitegasandheat.com

❖ Uniform Sales

Please continue to donate good quality school uniform. We have a lot of stock, so please only give us logo items. Please do not give us shoes, soiled clothing or non-uniform.

We have a new ordering system to trial. If you need any uniform items, email stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk, message us on Facebook, or pop in to reception and fill in an order form. We will let you know when the items are ready, and you can collect from school and pay cash. Details will be sent to everyone in the next few days.

❖ ~~September Snake~~

Cancelled – due to a shortage of helpers, we have been unable to run a fundraiser in September. Keep hold of your change as we hope to rearrange the coin challenge very soon!

❖ Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th November, 7pm – School Hall – Everyone welcome

Macmillan coffee morning

Thank you to all that attended our coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan as well as the bake sale after school. We are pleased to tell you that we made a whopping **£367.38**. This is fantastic and for such a great cause. We would like to thank everyone who came along to the coffee morning and cake sale and all those that donated cakes. There were some truly amazing cakes. Pictures will be uploaded to the Macmillan website over the next few days.

Upcoming dates

<u>Event and details</u>	<u>Date</u>
Harvest festival at the Church; KS1 9:30am Years 3/4 10:15am Years 5/6 11am Donations for the local foodbank would be welcomed into school on this day	20/10/22
Half term	24/10/22- 31/10/22
Training day	31/10/22
School starts again	1/11/22
Flu vaccinations in school	2/11/22
New homework is published on the google classroom (years 1-6)	4/11/22
New intake tours of school; 9:30am and 10:30am	7/11/22
Parents evening (more details of how to book will follow)	8/11/22 and 10/11/22
Year 3/4 trip to Oxford Natural History Museum	9/11/22
Children in Need (mufti day)	18/11/22
Christmas Light Switch On	25/11/22
New intake tours of school; 9:30am and 10:30am	29/11/22
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance in school (2:15pm)	6/12/22
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance in school (5:30pm)	7/12/22
EYFS Christmas Performance in school (2:15pm)	8/12/22
Christmas Jumper Day AND Christmas lunch	9/12/22
Homework due in for years 1-6	9/12/22
Year 1/2 Christmas party (come dressed in party clothes)	14/12/22
Pantomime for the whole school (courtesy of PTFA)	14/12/22
EYFS Christmas party (come dressed in party clothes)	15/12/22
Year 3/4 Christmas performance at the Church; 9:30am	15/12/22

Year 5/6 Christmas performance at the Church; 10:15am	15/12/22
Year 5/6 Christmas party (bring party clothes to change into)	15/12/22
Year 3/4 Christmas party (come dressed in party clothes)	16/12/22
Last day of term	16/12/22