



ST MARY'S C. E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dream, believe, achieve

Fortnightly Newsletter

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 1st newsletter of our brand new year. It has been so fantastic to see the children return to us as we have truly missed them.

The newsletter will be emailed to you 2 times per half term (roughly every 3 weeks) and will keep you updated on what is going on in school.

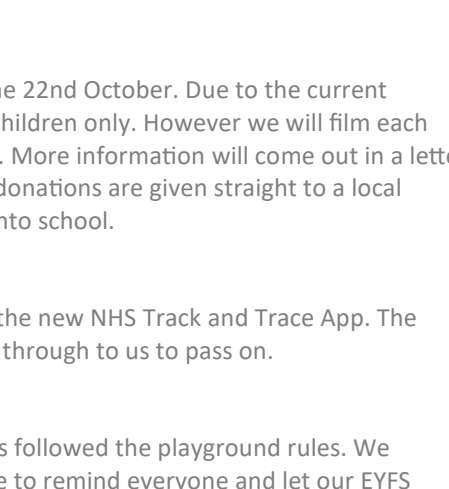
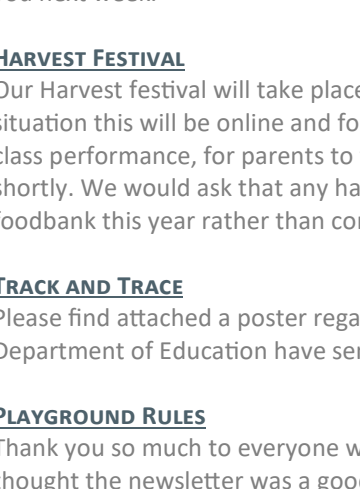
A very warm welcome to our new EYFS children and their families, we are very excited to have you as part of our family.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Even though the children can't all be in the hall, we have been able to continue our worship. Mrs Holt still leads our Monday worship via google classrooms. It is lovely to see all the children together even if it is via video link.

The children then have worship in class for the rest of the week and still celebrate achievements on a Friday.

Our theme this term is Friendship and so we have been spending a lot of time thinking about what kind of friend we want to be and how we can be the best friend possible. We have also talked about how we all see things differently but even if we don't agree, we can all still be friends. We used pictures below to demonstrate the different perspectives.



CURRICULUM

Over the summer, the teaching staff have been busy planning for the new term. They have produced long term curriculum plans so you can see what the children are learning in each subject across the year. If you would like to view these they can be found on our school website under the curriculum tab and in each year group, our website address is www.stmarysceb1.info. The teachers have also produced knowledge organisers. The purpose of these knowledge organisers is to set out the important, useful and powerful Knowledge for a topic. It sets out the key facts a child needs for any subject. These will not be on the website but will be emailed to you next week.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest festival will take place on the 22nd October. Due to the current situation this will be online and for the children only. However we will film each class performance, for parents to watch. More information will come out in a letter shortly. We would ask that any harvest donations are given straight to a local foodbank this year rather than coming into school.

TRACK AND TRACE

Please find attached a poster regarding the new NHS Track and Trace App. The Department of Education have sent this through to us to pass on.

PLAYGROUND RULES

Thank you so much to everyone who has followed the playground rules. We thought the newsletter was a good place to remind everyone and let our EYFS parents know them also.

We encourage children to cycle or scooter to school but ask that once on the school site, children dismount and walk their bike or scooter to the designated bike rack. No dogs are allowed on site and smoking is not permitted.

Please also remember the school site is operating a one way system during Covid times. We ask that parents do not stop and chat to ensure people are moving on and off site quickly.

BIRTHDAY SWEETS

If your child would like to share sweets for their birthday, please could you ensure they are all individually wrapped, not home made and where possible brought in 48 hours prior to their birthday. We cannot share sweets with children outside their bubble.

FLU VACCINATIONS

You have been sent the information about your child having the flu vaccination in school (sent out on the 8/09/2020). If you haven't yet filled in the online form, please do so by the 14/10/2020. The school nursing team will only be in for 1 day on the 21/10/2020. There will be no second catch up this year. To register your child for their vaccination please go to <https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/flu> If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination you are not required to submit the consent form.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Our weekly bulletin will resume today. This email is sent out every Friday with a reminder of upcoming school events to ensure you are organised and ready for the week ahead.

FUNDRAISING IN SCHOOL

Unfortunately our wonderful PTFA are not able to operate in the same way as they usually do but are still working at ways they can raise money. If you would like to be a part of the PTFA please let the office know and they will put you in contact with a member.

We do have some fundraising going on behind the scenes. One of our parents has a perfume business. She has said that for every bottle sold in September, she will donate £1 to school. If you would like to sample them, please contact the office.

We also need to thank another of our parents, Graham, dad of Isobel Butt (and Sainsburys) for their donation of sport relief t-shirts.

Finally, we will once again be creating art work in school to be turned into Christmas Cards, tags, mugs, tea towels and bags for life. These will be coming home in your child's book bag soon.

PARENT FORUM

We are a school who believe parent voice is important. We believe the partnership between parents/carers and the school. Before lockdown we were fortunate to have parents that were part of our forum. At these meetings we share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions about improvements. We believe schools work best when they work in partnership with parent/carers. We would like to start these sessions online. If you are interested in being a part of the parent forum, please email the office with your preferred days and times for a meeting. Mrs Reynolds will then do her best to accommodate a date and time suitable for the majority of parents.

HOMEWORK

We would like to utilise the google classroom more with our homework. Each Friday the class teachers will upload the children's spellings, handwriting and a maths question for the following week. Spellings will be tested in school but the handwriting sheet and maths question can be returned to school by hand or a photograph uploaded to the google classroom.

Feedback will be given to the children in school where needed. This will begin on the 9th October and more information will follow. This will be for years 1-6 initially but will include EYFS later in the year.

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK

We would like to invite pupils to partake in bike to school week, 28th September – 2nd October 2020. Following the recent lockdowns, active travel is more important than ever to assist pupils in getting to school safely and healthily. Bike to school week is a Nationwide event that encourages active forms of travel to school. As well as asking all pupils to participate, class activities will also take place to further raising pupils understanding of the importance of healthy and active lifestyles and also discuss the causes and effects of air pollution. To take part simply support your child in travelling to school via bike or scooter. Please ensure your child is wearing a helmet for all journeys to and from school, and promote safe travel at all times. Pupils will be asked to dismount before they enter the school premises. Where possible we would encourage bikes and scooters to return home with Parents after dropping your child off. Alternatively they can be stored in our bike shed.

COATS AND WATER BOTTLES

As the weather has taken a turn for the worse, please ensure your child has a coat everyday. Please remember children require a water bottle for class and a separate drink for their lunchbox. Due to current restriction water bottles are not able to be taken into the lunch hall.

SEND

We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Hello everyone and welcome back to school! It has been really great to see how well our children have settled back into the new 'normal', particularly those who find this time of the year challenging WITHOUT the complications that Covid is throwing at us!

All pupils with Individual Support Plans have now had their targets reviewed by their new class teachers so that they balance the interventions with time spent in class. There has been a greater emphasis on pupil wellbeing with lots of opportunities to talk about our experiences over the last 6 months. Pupil targets will be reviewed again in October and new Individual Support Plans will be created. There has been lots of fantastic communication with families and this will continue, so that your child knows we are working together to help them with their learning. Thank you for your support.

Here are some useful links, to support parents and carers as well as giving resources for our children. Why not have a look at these and let me know which ones you find most helpful?

[Beyond Words](#) - wordless stories to help children return to school. Sign up to the mailing list.

[Action for Children: Return to School resources](#)

[Contact: Back to School advice](#) - key facts about going back to school, answers to some of parents' top concerns and some advice and information to help prepare your child and yourself for September.

[ChildLine: Going back to school - advice for children and young people](#)

[Headstart: Returning to School, Life After Lockdown](#) - the guide has been developed by Barnardos (and Headstart Hull) and has useful information about returning to school. This is booklet/log to work through with your child, with lots of practical ideas.

[Young Minds: Supporting a child returning to school](#)

We continue to use the **Keys to Happier Living** with many of our children, but these ideas are relevant for us all and are particularly useful now! Have a look at the website www.actionforhappiness.org The keyrings are ready to go, and can be added to if you want to start collecting them this week. [Keep spreading happiness! Research shows that there are particular actions that have a significant impact on our sense of happiness and wellbeing. Mrs Campell, our Learning Mentor, has the key fobs. Just remind your child to come and collect one from her after each newsletter is published. This is the next one.....](#)

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| <p>E</p>  <p>Emotions</p> | <p>Positive emotions like joy, gratitude, pride contentment create an 'upward spiral' which helps to build our strength.</p> <p><u>Being realistic about lifes ups and downs helps us to focus on the good aspects of any situation.</u></p> <p><u>Remember the glass is half full!</u></p> | <p>Emotions:</p> <p>Look for what's good.</p> <p>See life as it is, but focus on the good bits.</p> |
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Together, we can make a difference!
Mel Barron
Inclusion and Pastoral Leader