

## Newsletter September



Welcome back to school, and to all our new families, a very warm welcome. It has been a busy, but exciting few weeks and the children have all settled into school well. I am proud to be writing this newsletter as the Principal of St Mary's and am so grateful for all the support I have had as I settle into my new role. I look forward to working with you over the next year to ensure our children have the very best year, full of love and learning.

For those new to the school, I write this newsletter every three weeks to keep you up to date on everything that is happening in school.

### Collective Worship

Our value for this term is wisdom. We have explored what this means and learnt about the difference between being wise and being clever. We have also celebrated International Peace Day and found out about inner peace as well as peace in the world. We have heard about the work of the United Nations and children have thought about ways that they can create a peaceful learning environment.



The Year 6 children have begun to lead us in our reflection and prayer, and they have really impressed me with their thoughtfulness.

### Year 6 Secondary School Applications

The closing date for you to submit your application on North Northamptonshire website for a place at secondary school is 31st October 2023. <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/secondary-school-places/apply-secondary-school-place>

Local secondary schools are holding open days/evenings during September and October, providing an opportunity to visit or book a tour. Please look at our weekly bulletin from 22<sup>nd</sup> September for information on open days/evenings.



### Kindness Ambassadors

Last year we worked with the Diana Award Anti-Bullying programme, where the children received training and support to develop their ideas in school.

At the School of Kindness, we believe that **kind** is the most important thing a child can be. We believe kindness exists inside all of us – sometimes we just need to unlock it.

The Diana award helps to create a culture of kindness in classrooms and work with thousands of children every year. They offer free Kindness Workshops, resources and lessons plans, and provide small grants via our Kindness Fund.

They are part of the 52 Lives charity. Their aim is to empower children by helping them realise that the little choices they make every day have the power to change lives and change the world, while also improving their own physical and mental health.



Mrs Campbell has already asked a group of Year 6 children to apply for the roles, but the School of Kindness would also like to have children represented from each class in the school, as part of the outcome is to carry out acts of kindness in each class, the school as a whole and the community. Children who are interested need to talk to their class teacher who will put their name forward.

We cannot wait to work with our Kindness Ambassadors, so all children feel happy and safe in school.

### Healthy Schools Award

Throughout last year, we worked with the Healthy School's partnership to gain an award. This is an awards programme which recognises schools' achievements in supporting pupils' health and wellbeing. We are so excited to tell you that we were successful in achieving the Healthy School's Bronze Award. Thank you to the staff, governors and parent forum who helped the school to achieve this award.



### **Communication**

As a school, we are always reflecting on how best to communicate with parents and ensure that all information is given out in a timely manner. We have heard some comments from parents that they feel there are too many emails from school and therefore they don't read them. We try our best to ensure we balance the information you need with the number of emails we send. If anyone has any thoughts about how to improve this, we would love to hear them.



### **Hello and Goodbye**

We were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Thomas over the summer, but we are very fortunate to have appointed Miss Neal who has joined our year 5/6 team.



We still have 2 Teaching Assistant vacancies – please come and talk to me if you are interested.

### **Walk in Wednesday**

Our next Walk in Wednesday is 4/10/23. Please come into your child's classroom after school and hear all about google classroom, spelling shed, purple mash, TT rockstars and more. The children can show you around their classroom and you can look at the amazing displays that are up around school. The Year 6 teachers will also talk about Govilon and SATS after the Walk in Wednesday session. This will also be repeated at 6pm in school for Year 6 only.



### **PE Kit**

As you are aware children are now required to attend school wearing PE kit on their designated PE days for Years 1-6. This includes plimsolls/trainers, royal/navy blue shorts, royal/navy blue joggers, navy leggings (if preferred to joggers), plain white t-shirt (school badge optional) and a sky-blue PE jumper (school badge optional). *If you are unsure which days your child will be completing their PE lessons, please contact their class teacher.*



Earrings must be removed, and long hair tied back, children need to be able to do this themselves or arrive at school prepared.

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.

### **School Sports Competitions**

We are delighted to confirm we will continue to attend inter school competitions as well as host intra school competitions this year.



This term we will be competing in KS2 Cross Country, Years 3/4 & 5/6 Indoor Athletics, Year 3/4 Tag Rugby and Year 5/6 Football competitions.

In response to feedback last year in which Pupils/Parents explained that on occasions children didn't feel confident to attend competition as they had limited experience and knowledge in the sport they were invited to, we have made the decision to change of morning sport provision to allow for competition practice sessions ahead of competitions.

All KS2 pupils have been asked to express their interest in any competitions they would like to be considered to be invited to attend. Children who have put their names forward have then been invited to attend 'squad practice sessions' in the mornings to help them to learn the rules of the sport and develop their understanding and key skills required. Attendance of practice sessions will then aid us in selecting/inviting pupils to attend the competitions. We hope this will help to allow pupils to feel more confident, prepared and knowledgeable when attending competitions.

## Sports Clubs

We have made changes to the sports clubs being offered this half term and we are trialling a new set up for clubs.

### After School Sports Clubs

Unfortunately, due to reduced participation of extra-curricular clubs in recent years, we are no longer able to continue to provide as many clubs as possible, in comparison to previous years. Therefore, after school clubs have been reduced to three per week.



This term the following clubs are taking place:

Tuesdays – 3.20-4.20pm – Years 3-6 Dodgeball Club

Wednesdays – 3.20-4.20pm – EYFS-Year 2 Multi Sports Club

Fridays – 3:20 - 4.20pm – Years 1-3 Football Club

Clubs are £4 per session, bookings can be made via the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/3hfsxy5y> or visit [www.prssportscoaching.co.uk](http://www.prssportscoaching.co.uk)

Clubs will likely change throughout the year to offer a variety of sports.

In addition, pupils will be asked to vote which clubs they would like to see offered.

### Morning Sports Clubs

Morning clubs have been replaced with competition coaching/practice sessions.

These sessions are invite only to pupils who have expressed an interest in attending the forthcoming competition.

Currently this half term we have:

Mondays – 08:00-8:45am – Year 5/6 Gymnastics squad practice

Tuesdays – 08:00-8:45am – Year 3/4 Tag Rugby squad practice

Wednesdays – 08:00-8:45am – Year 3/4 Gymnastics squad practice

Thursdays – 08:00-8:45am – Year 3/4 Indoor Athletics squad practice

Fridays – 08:00-8:45am – Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics squad practice

*Pupils have already received their invitation letters.*

If your child would like to attend and they didn't previously put their name forward please speak to Mrs Patrick. Practice sessions will change each term/half term depending on the forthcoming competitions.



## PTFA News

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

Email: [stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk)



## ❖ Outdoor Cinema

- What a success!! Thank you to everyone that joined us! We raised £1000 and couldn't be happier! Children loved it, parents have given us lovely feedback, and the volunteers enjoyed it!!

## ❖ Change Challenge

Thank you! Lots of pennies have been collected, and the count continues!! Class winners have been announced and have been awarded their prizes, by Barnaby the Bee!

## ❖ Christmas Cards

- The children and teachers have worked very hard on their Christmas designs this year.
- Order forms will be sent out very soon. Please pay attention to the deadline date!!
- The system is all online and login details will be on the form – so don't lose them!
- Make sure you check the design, name and spellings as we cannot make any changes.
- We put the orders in early to avoid any delays or missing items.
- Mugs, coasters, cards, bags, wrapping paper all available.
- The PTFA earn a commission from every sale, and you get a wonderful personalised design. We appreciate your support from this every year.

## ❖ Christmas Fair

### • **Santa will be back at St Mary's on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November!!!**

Details to follow soon, look out for posters and banners. We will try and run a Christmas fair along with a bar and games. If you can help for an hour or 2 on the night (5-8pm) please let us know!!!

## ❖ Wreath Making – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7-9pm

- After the huge success of the Wreath Making Workshop last year, we are very lucky to have the fabulous Michelle from Eden to demonstrate and assist in making a beautiful festive creation for your front door! [www.flowersfromeden.co.uk](http://www.flowersfromeden.co.uk)
- Tickets are £35, include mulled wine and mince pies, and everything you need to create a beautiful wreath on the night!
- Email [stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk) and we will send you payment details. Places are limited so book ASAP!
- [Can't make the date? You can purchase a take home kit \(same as what is used on the night\) to make your own at home. Email us at stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk and we'll arrange collection for 27<sup>th</sup> November.](#)

## ❖ Rags2Riches

- Next collection is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We welcome all clothing and accessories donations from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October until 9am Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## ❖ Uniform Click & Collect

- Uniform is available anytime, just send an email to [stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk) with what you need.

## **Next Meeting - AGM - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7pm**

We love to welcome new people, just come to reception.

As well as our normal meeting, we will be voting in a new committee, presenting the accounts for the last year, and celebrating our achievements! Please join us!

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)

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new academic year. For any new parents here, I am Miss Price and I am the School Inclusion Leader here at St. Mary's.



This term, we will be holding review meetings for your children who have Individual Support Plans (ISPs). These meetings focus on what is going well and any further support we feel needs to be put in place. These are the targets that were set in June and have followed the children through to the new academic year.

They also give you an opportunity to discuss with myself and your child's class teacher, the progress that your child is making towards their targets.

Your child's class teacher should have contacted you to book in these review meetings, however if not, please do speak to them. We have continued to have excellent engagement with these meetings, and we hope you find them as useful as we do!



These reviews will then inform your child's next ISP which will be sent home on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**.

At St. Mary's, we have children with a wealth of different needs. This section of the newsletter will highlight a particular area of need and explore how you can help to support your child at home. Each newsletter, we will explore a different area of need. If you have a specific area you would like us to cover, please send your suggestions into the school office.

### Spotlight on...Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Speech, language, and communication skills are important for socialising, working, learning, for well-being and good mental health. 'Speech, Language and Communication Needs' or SLCN is a broad term often used in education or speech and language therapy to refer to anyone who is having difficulty with these skills. SLCN can have minor or major effects on individuals and impact on wider society in a variety of different ways.

Speech, language, and communication skills provide a crucial foundation for learners. These skills are essential for supporting understanding of other areas of the National Curriculum. Developing solid speech, language and communication skills can help children academically and improve social skills which positively impacts wellbeing. Being able to effectively communicate will build a learner's confidence, self-esteem and emotional development. Language is key in developing emotional literacy — the ability to communicate our feelings and read them in others — will support behavioural development in general.

A child may have difficulties with speech sound production (clearly producing the sounds, e.g. may say wadder instead of ladder, or sun instead of fun), difficulties in understanding others (e.g. listening and attention, memory or auditory skills), difficulties producing language (e.g. joining words to make sentences) or difficulties using language appropriately (e.g. using non-verbal and conversational skills).

#### Useful Links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people?scrlybrkr=7cfce84c> BBC Tiny Happy People

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/talking-point/signs-and-symptoms/> Speech and Language UK

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents> SpeechLink

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/inclusion-teaching-resources/speech-language-and-communication-areas-of-need-primary-send-inclusion-teaching-resources> Twinkl

**Please see the below message from the SEND Team at North Northamptonshire Council.**

North Northamptonshire Council would like to invite you to a SENDCo Conference to Meet the SEND Team.

These meetings are free to attend. Although these meetings are listed by locality, if another date is more suitable and parents & carers are happy to travel to another venue, you would be very welcome.

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions in person because of childcare or for any other reason, please contact us. If you would like to participate, we are able to arrange virtual groups over Teams.

Corby	Tuesday 10th October	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Corby Enterprise Centre
Kettering	Thursday 12th October	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Kettering Corn Market Hall
East Northants	Thursday 19th October	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Rushden Hall
Wellingborough	Tuesday 31st October	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Wellingborough Museum

To book the Corby event, [please click here.](#)

To book the Kettering event, [please click here.](#)

To book the East Northants event, [please click here.](#)

To book the Wellingborough event, [please click here.](#)