

Newsletter

**Updates around school**

You may have noticed some updates around school to doors, gates, walls, fences and garden areas. As explained previously these have either been funded from central academy sources because they fall under safeguarding updates or they have been necessary updates using a government fund.

All other updates have been sourced from private contributions made to school.

The new gates at the front of the school secure the area outside Kestrel Class and offer opportunities to create a safe outside area for them. We had planned to complete this during the summer but the gates were delayed. The plan is next to paint them our school blue and then to develop some gardening projects for Kestrel Class.

**Hilary’s Lunch**

On Saturday the school was open bright and early by a small team of volunteers lead by Hilary Sharpe, our safeguarding governor. Homemade pasta and meatballs or chicken and sweetcorn pie followed by cake, meringue, fruit, cream, yoghurt were available to tempt young and old.

It was a lovely community event with children having the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine, playing on the school field, whilst adults enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea.

Hilary plans to repeat this community venture each month. There is no cost to attend but you can make a voluntary contribution. Please do look out for the next date and support it if you can.

**Crossing patrol - could you or someone you know be a local hero?**

You will be aware that every day we enjoy the reliable services of Mr David Swift, our crossing patrolman. You may also know that he should have retired in the summer but agreed to stay until October half term. So far we do not have any one to replace him when he leaves at October half term. If you do know of anyone who might be interested then please ask them to contact Colin Savage at Devon County Council, Tel 01392 383000.

Whilst we are sad to see Mr Swift leave we will also be taking time to thank him for his many years of commitment and hope that he will attend our Harvest Service so that we can have the opportunity to show how grateful we have been for his commitment to the safety of our community.

**Thursday 26th September Eagle Class Parliament Trip**. Children will be leaving from school at 7.00am to travel to London to visit Parliament and to take part in debate and presentation workshops in the Houses of Parliament. This trip was planned last year to build on the children’s learning about rights, responsibilities and democracy in action. The children will watch MPs debating and will take part in workshops as well as making the most of being in London by going on The London Eye. We are grateful to Our local MP and to The PTFA who have financially supported this trip.

**Year 6 open days for Axe Valley Academy and The Woodroffe School.**

As you are probably aware, the open days for the year 6’s and their parents is on the same day as the parliament trip. Parents and Carers are still able to attend the open days if they so wish (see below for details for Axe Valley’s times). Alternatively, both schools have said that you are more than welcome to book an appointment for a tour with your child on another day. Please contact the schools directly to arrange a time for you and child to look around, if you so wish.



**Genes for Jean Day Friday 27th September**

As explained in an email this week we are raising awareness and funds to support children and families affected by Gene disorders.

There are over 500,000 children affected by these disorders, which are in different ways life altering. Those children affected say that the hardest part of their condition is being accepted, liked and included by other children.

We are asking children to come in to school out of uniform on Friday, wearing jeans if they own them or other non-uniform clothing. Children are asked to bring in a voluntary donation which will be sent to the charity who supports children and families affected.

One of our own families has been affected by a gene disorder. We are all very grateful that they had access to research that enabled their son Danny, who is in Robin Class, to be born without the disorder that affects his dad which limits his muscle control and mobility.

**Parent Information Sessions are planned for the week beginning 14th October.** Class letters will be sent out in the next week with days and times. This will be an opportunity to meet class teacher(s) and to discuss and share what is going well and any actions to further develop your child’s learning.

**Health Week Monday Oct 14th to Friday 18th October**

The last week this half term will be a focus for thinking very broadly about being healthy. Miss Clist, our pastoral support worker, has been researching a range of workshops to include yoga for children, street dancing, a therapy dog, healthy snacks cooking……we are still building this so if you have any contacts that might fit this theme then let the office know. We will end the week with our harvest Festival Service on Friday 18th October at 9.15am. This year we will be asking for food contributions for Axminster Foodbank. Parents are welcome to join us for our Harvest Service.

**Dance Festival Week Tuesday 29th October to Friday 1st November**

After half term children return to school on Tuesday 29th October. We have booked a four day dance experience for that week. We are very excited to be working with a specialist dance team who will be travelling from London to work with us for the week. The Dance company will work with each class every day that week so there will be some alterations to class timetables. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

**Message from the Governors**

The recent Ofsted inspection and report endorses and highlights the shared values, commitment and achievements of St Mary ’s. We are always very proud of our school with its place in Axminster’s community. As such, Ofsted’s recognition is both gratifying and well deserved.

A sincere thank you to pupils, parents, staff and volunteers who make our school what we know it to be…. a GOOD school.

From Theresa Dicker, Chair of Governors

**Blue Peter badge campaign**

Please encourage your child to apply for a blue peter badge. There are lots of different types of badges they can apply for. Please go to their website for further details.

**Shoe Box Appeal**

As in previous years we will again support the shoe box appeal. These shoe boxes are sent to children around the world who live with war and poverty. The boxes make such an incredible difference to their lives. The children love receiving the gifts in the boxes as well as realising that people thousands of miles away have taken the time to think of them and put the boxes together. Perhaps you might like to think about putting together a box as a family activity over the next few weeks. Full details of what can be put in the box will be shared in the coming weeks.

**Crossing patrol-week of 30th September (Monday to Friday)**

We have been informed that Mr Swift will be away all next week. As such, please take extra care when you cross the road before and after school.

**Parking**

Just a reminder that parents are not permitted (unless prior agreements have been made with the school) to park in the school carpark when dropping off or collecting their children. This includes the two spaces at the front near the road. We have staff members coming into and leaving work and as it is a small car park, unfortunately we cannot cater for parents in this small space. With cars coming and going it is a health and safety risk. As such, it would be greatly appreciated if you could avoid using the car park and use the roads near by as an alternative.

**School Clubs**

All clubs have now commenced. If you have requested a place on a club and you have not heard from the office, then please assume your child has got a place on that club. We will only contact you if a space is not available for them.

**Dates for your diary –**

**Monday 30th September Robin Class – NHS vision screening check**

**Eagle last swimming session Wednesday 30th October**

**Owl first swimming session Wednesday 6th November (letter to follow shortly)**

**October half term holiday – We break up on Friday 18th October at 3.30pm and children return to school on Tuesday 29th October (INSET day is Monday 28th October so children are not required in school on this day).**

**Wednesday 6th November- Bags to school (bags will be sent out in your child’s book bag as soon as we have them).**

**Friday 8th November ‘Zero to Hero’ Cafod Workshops helping children to positively explore the issue of climate change.**

**Monday 11th November @ 10.45 am Remembrance Service in school parents welcome**

**Tuesday 19th November Individual photos-Tempest in School in the morning.**

**Friday 22nd November flu vaccinations in school**

**Friday 29th November St Andrew Team celebration for St Andrew’s Day**

**Sunday 1st December Advent begins**

**Monday 9th December @2.30pm Nativity for parents**

**Tuesday 10th December @ 2.30pm and 6.00pm Nativity for parents**

**This year Robin, Woodpecker and Owl Class will lead the Nativity**

**Monday 16th December @9.00 am KS2 Advent Service**

**Wednesday 18th December @ 9.00 KS2 Carol service**

**Friday 20th December end of term**

**Start of Spring Term- Monday 6th January 2020**