



Mr John Shannon, Head Teacher.

Newsletter no.3

12 October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have found the Parent/Carer Conferences we have been holding this week to be helpful and informative. If you haven't been able to attend please contact your class teacher to make an appointment to see them. We really value the opportunity to share your child's current learning and talents and to speak to you about how you feel your child is progressing at St Mary's. We believe that the partnership between home and school is crucial to your child's success and happiness so please let me know if you think there is any way we can improve these meetings.

Now that I have moved from a cast to a boot I have been able to move about school a bit more freely and have, as a consequence, been enjoying visiting classrooms and seeing the children at work and play. I also hope to be able to see all our families more regularly at the start and end of the school day now that I am less of a hazard!

**Lollipop man**

Mr Swift, our School Crossing Patrol Officer will not be manning the crossing on Monday morning, 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Parents and carers remain responsible at all times for the safety of their children on their entire journey to and from school, regardless of whether a formal crossing or a patrol is provided.

**Remembrance Sunday Wreath competition**

The Royal Naval Association and Royal British Legion are holding a wreath competition. The winner will be asked to lay their wreath upon the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday followed by a free lunch with their parents. The only stipulation for the wreath is size; it must be no larger than 14" across. It should be of a water proof/ rain resistant material so that it will last for at least a month. Please bring your entries into school by Monday 6th November.

**Parking in the school carpark**

No parent may park in the school car park. This includes dropping off and collecting children at the start and end of the day. Once again, may we remind parents to walk their children down through the path rather than cutting across the car park.

**Absence from school**

If your child is going to absent from school due to illness, please telephone the school office by 9.00am on the same day. The school office is manned from 8.45am so if you call before then, please leave a message on the answerphone and Mrs Brett or Mrs Newcombe will pick it up once they start work.

*Living, loving and learning with God*

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### **School dinners**

Please remember, if you would like your child to have a school meal you must now order it via Parentpay. Thank you to those parents who are using this system. Please select what you would like your child to have. Even if they have the same option each day **EVERYONE must now pre order a meal for their child**. It is important this process is followed so that Axminster kitchen can make and prepare enough food for all the children who require a lunch.

### **Volunteer readers**

Eagles Class are looking for volunteers to come into school to listen to the children read. If you could spare a little time each week to volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated by both the staff and the children. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please pop into the office to speak with Mrs Brett or Mrs Newcombe. We need to carry out a DBS check on all volunteers who come into school. As such, please speak with the office staff and they will advise you as to the documents they need to get this processed.

### **Eagles Class Swimming** – additional lessons

Eagles Class are having 4 additional swimming lessons at Flamingo Pool, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November. Thank you to those parents who have paid via Parentpay. **If you have not paid for your child yet, please log on to Parent pay as soon as possible to make payment.**

### **PTFA news**

The PTFA are holding a School Disco Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, please see attached poster. KS1 can bring a change of clothes to put on after school. Please put the £2 entry fee plus spending money in a named envelope. If any parents would like to help at the disco that would be great. We are also looking for someone to dress up as Santa for an hour during the Christmas fayre, and helpers for bingo and Christmas Fayre.

### **Bag2School – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

The PTFA and Dragonflies Pre School jointly fundraise using Bag2School. Your child will be bringing home a Bag2School bag this week. Please bring your filled bags into school on Thursday 2 November. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept bags before this date as there is no storage space available.

### **Term dates 2017-2018**

Please see below the dates for this academic year.

<b>Half Term:</b>	Monday 23 October to 27th October 2017
<b>Christmas Lunch</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Last day of Autumn term</b>	Friday 15 December 2017 at 1.15pm
<b>INSET day</b>	Tuesday 2 January 2018
<b>Children return to school</b>	Wednesday 3 January 2018
<b>Half term</b>	Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2018
<b>Last day of Spring term</b>	Thursday 29 March 2018 at 1.15pm
<b>Children return to school</b>	Monday 16 April 2018
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018
<b>Last day of summer term</b>	Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 1.15pm

Kind regards,

John Shannon

Headteacher