



Mrs Elaine Mannix, Head Teacher MEd NPQH

Dear Families of St Mary's,

As we come to the end of a very busy year we can say that despite the challenges of Covid it has been a very good year.

Children have been very focused and we are delighted by the progress made to close gaps following the periods of disruption.

This summer we had our first national tests since 2019. Our results show that we have a very skilled staff team and very focused pupils.

As importantly our children are enjoy being with each other. Leadership is taken very seriously by all pupils and there are very good relationships across the school.

You will have received your child's report and should see the hard work that has gone in to supporting each child's success. We hope that you can see the many areas of success. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your child's report please ensure that you do ask your child's class teacher.

Going forwards

I would like to thank you for the many ways that you have supported and encouraged us in my time as Head Teacher at St Mary's. It has been a privilege to be part of working to develop a school staff team that is so strong and to see the many ways that the school is flourishing. I will leave a part of my heart at St Mary's but I am pleased to know that the staff are dedicated and skilled and will work hard and smart for the pupils and families of St Mary's.

Mr Meech has visited our school and has worked with myself and Mrs Gill and has a clear view of all that we are doing well. He will support the school to move forward with confidence.

Mrs Mannix

NOURISH – holiday and beyond community support

Nourish is a grant funded charity. They provide freezer meals for families who are finding it a challenge to meet all financial needs. They are also running a summer programme called 'Picnic in the Park'. Packed lunches will be available for children playing in the park. To ensure that children know that they are safe to approach these unknown adults, PCSO Hayley Widger will accompany them. We have also attached a flyer so that you can see the adults themselves. Should you wish to access this with your children there is no cost.

Similarly if you are finding life a stretch and are worried about meeting the costs over the summer do feel that you can contact the group on 0800 019 2428 or through their Facebook page for access to quality frozen meals as well as advice on other sources of support. This is a very community led initiative so please take advantage of it.

Living, loving and learning with God

Lyme Road, Axminster, Devon EX13 5BE. Telephone 01297 32785

E-Mail: admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk

Online over the summer

We are aware that very young children are now accessing on line platforms. A reminder that there are so many positives about the online world but children do need support and guidance as well as close monitoring to ensure that they are safe. Some of our very youngest children are talking to each other about characters that suggest that they (or perhaps older siblings) are accessing material that is not age appropriate. This includes forums such as Poppy Playground. You may want to do your own research rather than asking your children about this as it could peak their interest if they do not know about it.

Essentially there are games that seem as though they are for children but they are not.

As always it is sensible to be alert to the internet trends in order to try to stay one step ahead of the children and young people.

We have been alerted to a game called Poppy Playground which has a character called Huggy Wuggy. Both the name of the game and the character sound friendly and cute. They are not.

This character hugs and whispers unkind and menacing comments and ideas to the person they are hugging.

This game and this character engages and influences children.

This is an online game. There are also related videos on YouTube. Due to the child friendly name these are not being filtered. The game itself does not have age restrictions but the developers have set the appropriate age at 8+

The game does have to be purchased as a download but there are many free downloads and videos which are accessible on a range of platforms including YouTube for kids.

This is the summary of the game:

Poppy Playtime is a horror/puzzle game which involves the player investigating an abandoned toy factory to solve the mystery of what happened.

The toys in the stories are chased by Huggy Wuggy. The game creates a sense of danger and tension, with images of toys covered in blood.

It has become popular amongst 5 to 7 year olds. Many do not appreciate that they are watching something that is scaring them.

Please check that your child is not accessing this game as it is causing anxiety and nightmares as well as becoming a game that is translated into playground behaviours.

It is also possible that older children are accessing the game and then sharing the ideas from the game with older children.

We are not yet aware of this game being accessed by pupils at St Mary's but will remain watchful.

As always with these internet trends it is sensible to be alert and to be checking what your child is accessing.

Mr Murnane Summer Camp

A reminder that we are running a summer camp each Tuesday for the first four weeks of the holidays.

Bookings can be made via Mr Murnane at dmcoaching2010@gmail.com see attached for more information.

2022 to 23

PE Days

Starting from w/c 5th Sept and up to October half term PE days will be:

Monday – Robin, Woodpecker and Owl classes

Wednesday – Robin, Woodpecker and Owl classes

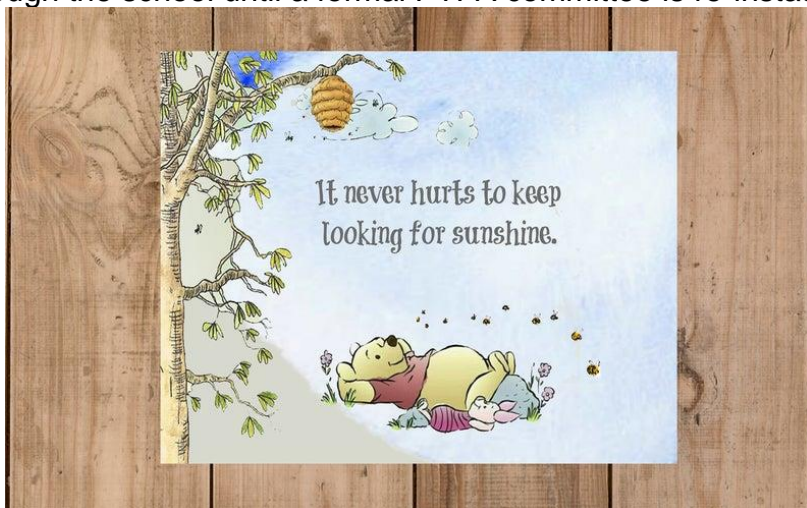
Thursday – Kestrel and Eagle classes

Friday – Kestrel class PE and Eagle class swimming

PTFA: We have been hoping that parents would come forward to take up the PTFA baton but so far this has not happened.

We are going to formally close the PTFA for now. It is a requirement that there are at least 4 formal members to ensure best practice. As this is currently not in place it will close and requests for new members will be made at the start of the new term. Please consider supporting this if possible.

It will not stop us from hosting events. These can still go ahead but they will be managed through the school until a formal PTFA committee is re-instated.



First day of term for pupils 2022/23 is Monday 5th September

**Wishing a summer break filled with sunshine.
From all at St Mary's.**

