St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number 12 23.07.18

**Thank You, Good-bye and Welcome**

We are excited to start our next school year with so many adults who are skilled and committed to our next step journey. We have been working hard to make this year and next a success.

St Mary’s is a very special community and so many people who have visited us have told us they can feel the warmth and care that we think makes St Mary’s extra special.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who make the day-to-day experiences of each child special and work to support their success in school.

We also have a huge team of volunteers whom we love having in school. We are very grateful to each person who finds time to support us

We say good-bye this week to Miss Robbins, Mrs Adair and Mrs Wills. Each a valued staff member who will be greatly missed but we wish them success in their next steps.

Mrs Burt steps away as interim head teacher from September but will remain a part of our team working one day a week as an advisor to me in our shared journey from January this year when we both started at St Mary’s.

Roy our caretaker has retired (and returned several times) but is leaving us once again and this time it is likely to be more final. Roy has been the backbone of support for cleaning and maintenance for many years and will be missed. We welcome Andrew who has been working with us this term and will take over Roy’s duties from July 20th.

We welcome new staff: Mrs Clark (Deputy Head teacher and Woodpecker teacher) , Miss Reid

(Woodpecker job share ) Mrs Bennett ( Owl class teacher) and Miss Crouch ( Owl teaching support ) All are experienced teachers whom we know will add further strength to our team.

We also welcome Mrs Clyst who has been appointed as a pastoral support worker and will work for two days a week. This is a new role which will develop in the new term. Mrs Clyst will work with Mrs Mannix and Mrs Gill in the safeguarding and SEND responsibilities across the school.

We wish our new staff much success and happiness as they join our school community.

We also are excited to welcome our newest pupils and families. Our newest pupils and families have been visiting throughout this term and we are looking forward to them starting their full time school journey next term.

Our final good bye is to our Year 6 pupils. Getting to know them this year has been a great pleasure. In two terms I have spent much time with them including teaching and accompanying them on their residential. I do feel I know each of them well which is a great privilege and I sincerely wish them success in their next step. I hope, as they have said in their Mass and their leaving assemblies, that the sense of friendship and care that they have experienced at St Mary’s will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

**A word from Mrs Burt**

To echo Mrs Mannix, thank you for your wholehearted support over the last two terms and your many words of encouragement. Education is most effective when it is underpinned by a supportive partnership between school and home. For each one of you, your child’s whole development in these is so important. We thank you for entrusting the education of your unique child to us; we will continue to strive to do our very best for each one.

**2017 – 2018 Success**

Moments in a school year can be children’s richest experiences: reading a first sentence or writing your name for the first time; solving a maths problem with a partner and realising a new way of thinking about numbers; the hesitancy and nervous tummy before a child stands up in the school hall to read in a liturgy or assembly which turns into a sense of achievement once completed; playtime adventures, residential sleep overs, making a new friend, helping someone out and bringing a smile, being star of the week, writing that completed piece of writing that draws the reader in and keeps them gripped….

We have been making lists of what everyone should strive to achieve before they leave St Mary’s. Every child has shared their ideas and the list is developing from 12 to 25 to 50 things everyone should strive towards!

Unsurprisingly no child has put on their list ‘to achieve age related expectation in reading, writing and maths’. Whilst we appreciate it is not the ‘wow’ moment of school for them it remains an important focus for us.

Your child’s experiences at St Mary’s should be rich and wonderful and should ensure that a footprint for success is set for the future.

In March 2017 St Mary’s was judged by Ofsted as requiring improvement. Since January 2018 Mrs Burt and I have worked alongside the staff with energy and focus to move the school forward and have been pleased with the outcomes. We have had several external monitoring visits which have identified the progress made but, as always, there is still more to be done. We are pleased to have built a very positive team of adults and, with your ongoing support and the wonderful energy of the children, we look forward to our continued journey in ‘getting to good’.

As you can see our end of year data for this year is a positive step towards that. Together we have made significant strides in achieving data that is above national standards; in some cases, significantly above.

A huge thank you to everyone who has played their part in our journey. Children have just one primary school experience and each and every one of them deserves that to be the very best experience it can be.

**Whole School/ National Data 2018**

Please see attached documents for this information.

**Reading in the summer holidays**

Strong readers generally develop a good vocabulary and a sense of story. They can use their reading skills to understand and access new knowledge and to develop their writing. Giving your child a love of reading opens up the possibility of joy in reading and academic success.

Axminster Library staff have visited St Mary’s and introduced all pupils to the summer reading challenge. Each child that signs up will receive a reading map. The aim is to read six books during the holiday and on route the children receive stickers and rewards.

The library is a free resource and this summer there are several family events happening. If you can build a weekly visit to the library and make the most of these opportunities all will benefit.

**Times Table Challenge**

Developing fluency in times tables and being able to apply times table knowledge to division gives your child a head start in maths. Fluency in times tables also helps learners to more easily make the step in understanding other mathematical relationships; particularly fractions, percentages and ratios.

So, give your child a head start this summer and help them with their times table journey. Make it fun, make it short and focussed. Make it count.

Thank you for your continued support.

**St Mary’s Got Talent Friday 13th July**

The hall was filled with excitement and warm support as 34 of our pupils entertained us with an afternoon of singing, gymnastics, music playing and fun. We had a great afternoon of being a community. It really was lovely celebration of the diversity of experience and talent in our school. We will add some photos to the website.

**Sporting Excellence**

Jasmine in Owls competed in the World Gymnastic Dance Competitions in Italy earlier this month. As a 10 year old she should not have competed in the 11 – 16 year old event; however because it was a team event she competed alongside her older team mates.

There were 22 teams from across the world, so to have been selected was a great achievement. Her team qualified for the finals and came 9th overall. Congratulations for your continued hard work and effort, Jasmine. We saw her performance by video link. It was literally breath taking.

**Classes 2018 – 19**

As we explained above we are busy planning next year with a very motivated team of adults in place. Letters detailing next year classes and plans have been e mailed to relevant parents. Please find below a list of all classes and adults.

Robins – Foundation pupils only – taught by Mrs Burroughs and Mrs Foley

Woodpeckers – Year 1 and some year 2 – taught by Mrs Clark, Mrs Reid and Miss Preece

Owls – Year 3 and some year 2 – taught by Mrs Bennett and Miss Crouch

Kestrel – Year 4 and some year 5 – taught by Mrs Fudger and Mrs Walters

Eagles – Year 6 and some year 5 – taught by Mrs Perks, Mrs Gill and Mrs Desanges

**Autumn return – summer uniform**

With the changes in weather we are not sure what to expect on our return to school. Please use your discretion and make the choice to remain in summer uniform or return to autumn uniform depending on the weather and your child’s needs.

The official switch to winter uniform will take place following the October half term holiday.

**Robin Class uniform.**

Next year Robin Class will be Foundation pupils only. In order to support their active work pace all of the children, in Robin class will start the year wearing our blue polo tops. They will remain in this uniform all year and will graduate to our full school uniform of shirt and tie the following Autumn.

**After school clubs**

We are planning next year before and after school clubs and will release these for bookings as soon as we return to school.

**Contact details**

It is vital that we have up to date phone and e mail contacts. If you know any details have changed then please ensure that the office is informed.

**Term dates for 2018-2019**

Children return to school Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Last day before half term Friday 19 October 2018.

Half term Monday 22nd October-Friday 26th October 2018

INSET day Monday 29th October

Children return to school Tuesday 30th October

Last day of Autumn term is Friday 21st December

Staff INSET day Monday 7th January 2019-school closed to pupils

Children return to school Tuesday 8th January 2019

Last day before half term Friday 15th February

Half term Monday 18th February-Friday 22 February 2019

Last day of Spring term Thursday 4th April 2019

Staff INSET day (school closed to children) Friday 5th April 2019

Children return to school Tuesday 23 April

Last day before May half term Friday 24th May 2019

May Half term Monday 27th May0 Friday 31st May.

Staff INSET day Monday 3rd June (school closed to children)

Children return to school Tuesday 4th June 2019

Last day of the Summer Term 25th July 2019

Children return to school on 2nd September 2019

**We wish you a safe and happy holiday time and look forward to welcoming you back to St Mary’s on Tuesday 4th September.**

