

**Wednesday 1st May 2019**

**Dear Parents and carers**

Welcome back to the summer term. We hope that you had a safe and happy Easter break and look forward to a productive and successful term.

As always we have started the term with lots of sports activities and we are very grateful to parents for their work in ensuring that forms are completed and returned swiftly and children have the correct kit for each event.

Please could we ask all parents who have children with asthma to ensure that the office knows this and that inhalers are up to date and in school.

If your child has any other medical condition that we are not aware of then please ensure the office is informed.

**After school clubs have started this week and will run to Friday 12th July. Please do register your child for activities if you haven’t already.**

**Office Admin timings this term**

Monday 8.45 am to 3.30pm.

Tuesday to Friday 8.45 am to 3.45 pm

At all times messages can be left on the school answer machine and letters and e mails will always be responded to. If your child is not going to be in school as they are poorly, please ensure you ring the school office by **9am** to let us know. Please leave a message for the office staff if no one is available.

Many thanks for your continued support.

**Parent Voice**

We continue to work to develop St Mary’s as a very supportive, happy learning community. Recent reviews of children’s books and conversations with them tell us that we are making progress in all areas of our work in school.

If you do have concerns or questions about any aspect of school life then please do ask at the earliest opportunity. Often these are matters or misunderstandings which can be resolved and we are grateful to have the information that you hold. As parents of our children you have a very important and particular view of what we do. We value knowing what you think.

If you could take the time to complete the survey monkey questionnaire on our website or follow the link below we would be very grateful.

Please always know that we are genuinely working to provide the very best experience for every child and if you do have any concerns please let your child’s class teacher or Mrs Mannix know as soon as possible.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y9539XF>

**Summer Uniform**

Despite the rain and winds it is now our summer term and pupils can wear our summer uniform.

We have a few brand new dresses in school (only age 4 available). They are for sale at £4.00.

**Crossing Patrol**

Our crossing patrol officer , Mr David Swift has been absent due to illness. We are pleased that he made a swift return to work. You may be aware that Mr Swift is retiring at the end of the summer term. This is a very important role within our school community and nearer the time we will be ensuring that we say a heartfelt goodbye. If you or anyone you know would be interested in considering this role from September please go to the below link where you will find all the details on rates of pay, job description and how to apply. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/safe-travel/road-safety/schools/school-crossing-patrols/>

**Rights and Respect Bronze Award**

**We are delighted that we have achieved the Bronze Award and continue to work towards the Silver Award. This work supports our values.** It is important to us that our children see themselves as citizens of the world and within our school and beyond feel empowered to be confident people who can lead and inspire others. The work that Miss Bray, Eagles and the Rights Respect group are doing is helping us to achieve this.

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Follow this link for further information : <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/about-the-rrsa/>

**School Council Eco Research – REUSE/ REDUCE / RECYCLE**

Before the holidays our school council along with four year 4 supporters worked with Sally Jackson from the Devon waste team to sort and weigh a single days waste from across the school. They worked out that this one days waste would, over a year, be the equivalent of equivalent of four elephants of waste. The day ended with an action plan written with the school council. We look forward to seeing future actions that will allow us to reduce our waste.

**Rock Stars**

It has been great to see so many children taking part in the times tables rock stars  over the Easter holiday. A special mention has to be made to Fletcher and Jonas in year 6 for having the fastest times so far.

If you would like to improve your fastest time, please remember to take part in 10 studio challenges. Before the holidays all children were given passwords to this valuable resource, which builds confidence and knowledge of multiplications and corresponding facts. If you have lost the codes please speak to the class teacher who can reissue these.

**Memorial Garden**

During the Easter break the memorial garden within our grounds began to take shape and some progress was made in clearing the three raise beds.

If you do have any plants to offer or time to do any gardening then please let the office know. All help is appreciated.

**SATS**

Year 6 and Year 2 will take part in the government SATs during May. Year 6 will sit formal tests during the week beginning 13th May and will be invited to come into school for breakfast during that week. Letters will be sent directly to parents about this.

Year 2 SATs happen throughout May. These are opportunities for children to undertake work on their own and are used to identify what children have learned. They will access the papers in small groups during May. We will then continue to work with children throughout May and June to ensure that they make as much progress as possible.

We would ask all parents to reassure their children about these tasks which are always very positive experiences.

**Reading, spelling, maths and other homework tasks**

We work hard to ensure that any tasks sent home are purposeful and will support children’s learning in school. Reading with your child and ensuring that their reading record is kept up to date makes a huge difference to their experience and confidence in reading. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of home learning then please do talk to your child’s class teacher in the first instance.

