



Newsletter No. 20

9 September 2015

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and times away, despite the rather changeable weather. The teachers and I were all back on Tuesday 1 September and we had two training days looking at further developing teaching and learning and our maths teaching in particular, with the TAs joining us for both mornings.

It was lovely to welcome back all the children last Thursday. They all looked really smart and keen and eager to learn. I always love to go and visit Reception class to see our newest and youngest children on their first day. They were all busily involved in a range of activities and Mrs Burrough and her TAs (Mrs Fish and Mrs Greaves) have done a great job in getting everything ready for the start of the children's great educational adventure, as have all the other teachers.

We welcome Miss Helena West to our teaching team. She is teaching our Year 1/2 children in Woodpecker class. We hope that she has a really happy time with us as she starts her new teaching career and we wish her all the best.

On a completely different note, I have been told that a rumour is going around that our school is in Special Measures. I wanted to assure you that this is not the case. St Mary's is not in Special Measures. This grading can only be awarded by OfSTED following an OfSTED inspection, which we have not had. I can only presume that the rumour has started following the letter that Mark Burrough (Chair of Governors) and I sent out last term giving our SATs results and letting you know that we have an EMG (Enhanced Monitoring Group) in place.

As we explained in our letter, the teaching at St Mary's has not been good or outstanding all the time, therefore CAST (Catholic and Anglican Schools Trust), our multi Academy Trust, has put in place the EMG to provide the support the school needs to rapidly improve teaching and learning so that it is always good and outstanding. The work on this started in May and will continue for the foreseeable future because all of our children and you as parents deserve the best teaching and learning opportunities – children only get one chance at education.

If you hear people talking in these terms, please let them know what the facts are or ask them to speak to me or Mark Burrough.

Name Changes

We have changed some of our class names this year as follows:

Reception/Year 1 – Mrs Burrough's class are Robins

Year 1/2 – Miss West's class are Woodpeckers

Year 3/4 – Mrs Wright's class remain as Owls

Year 4/5 – Mr Germscheid's class are Kestrels

Year 6 – Mrs Trew and Mrs Vining's class are Eagles

Late starts

Some children are already arriving in school after the gate has closed at 8:55am. From this week, I will be standing at the front door and noting down all of the children who arrive after this time. Parents will be contacted when it is apparent that the children are late on frequent occasions.

Car Park

Could I please remind you that no parent has permission to park in the Church car park or front playground. The only exceptions to this are:

- Any parent who is displaying a blue disability parking badge may park in the Church car park.
- Parents dropping off children for early morning clubs may drop them off in the front playground and then leave immediately.



Could I also remind you not to pull into next door's drive way to drop children off on the road as this is private property.

Summer Reading Challenge Prize Draw

Axminster Library would like to thank everyone who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge, they had record numbers of children taking part! All children who finish the Summer Reading Challenge at Axminster Library will be entered in a prize draw for a family ticket to the Axe Valley Wildlife Park. The challenge finishes on Saturday 12th September. Children need to read/listen to six books to complete the challenge. If your child started the challenge but is struggling to finish, please go into the library and talk to staff about it. Activity Bags are still available so if your child didn't take part in the challenge over the summer but would still like to, again please go into the library. They are open Monday 10-1, Tuesday 10-6, Thursday 10-5 and Saturday 10-1.



News from St Mary's Church:

Growing in Faith Group

Meetings are now at the original morning time of **10.30am-12noon** on the second Wednesday of each month. The reading for the next meeting on **Wednesday 9th September** is Mark 13: v32-37.

Sunday afternoon concerts

A series of 6 late summer concerts will be starting next Sunday, the **13th September**. They will be held in the Parish Church of St Michael the Archangel, Lyme Regis starting at **3pm**. There will be an exciting variety of music played by talented organists ranging in age from 7-70+! One concert on October 11th will be given by an internationally famous concert pianist, Nicholas Walker. Please reserve these exciting events in your diary. All welcome and admission is free.

New Parent Governor

Last term you may recall that nominations were invited to fill a parent governor vacancy at St Mary's. James Hammett, father of Madeline in Year 3 and Ruby in Reception Year, was the only person who put their name forward. We have now completed the necessary child protection checks so I am pleased to confirm that he can now officially join the Governing Body. James has a broad range of business skills, so I am sure he will be a great asset to our Team. Mark Burrough, Chair of Governors.

Job vacancy

We are currently advertising a part time Receptionist/Administrator to job share along side Mrs Newcombe. The hours are 8.45am-3.45pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, term time only. If you are interested in applying for the post, please see Mrs Newcombe in the office and she will give you an application form along with all the other details. The closing date for applications is 23 September.



Future newsletters

This will be the last edition of our school newsletter that will be printed for children to take home. In future, our fortnightly newsletter will be emailed to parents so that you can pick it up on your computer, laptop, tablet or phone. This will also save the school time and resources. Please therefore make sure that we have your correct email address by filling out the slip at the bottom of this page. We will be sending the newsletter by Bcc (blind copy) so that anyone receiving it does not have access to other parents' email addresses.

If you do still require a paper copy of the newsletter, please let Mrs Newcombe in the office know.

School uniform

Please could we remind you that all children that they need to have their named school PE kit in school all week.

Reading in school

If you have any spare time and would like to come in and listen to our children read, please see Mrs Newcombe in the school office. We will need to do a DBS check but would happily welcome any new volunteers.

Music lessons

Music lessons start next week and they will be in the afternoons. If you require any further details please ask Mrs Newcombe in the office for the music teachers' contact details.



Attendance

Week ending 5th September 94.49%

Our attendance target is **96.2%**



With best wishes,

Angela Herrera

Mrs Angela Herrera
Headteacher

Please return to Mrs Newcombe in the school office

Email address for Newsletters:.....

Name of Pupil(s):.....

Name of Parent:.....

