St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number

**New Start**

The new routines and classes seem to be settling at a pace.

Last week was our first full week timetable and next week we introduce after school clubs.

Our youngest children in Robin Class have now been introduced to most of the routines and will start their first full week this week. They have Year 6 buddies and play leaders supporting them in this exciting step to school.

It is lovely to see and hear so many positive comments across the school.

Thank you to all parents for your important part in supporting in this phase.

**Start of term mass**

Please feel free to join us at church on Friday 21st September at 10.00am to celebrate mass with Owl, Kestrel and Eagle Class.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning and Daffodil Bulb Event** Friday 21st September 9.00 am in school

 The PTFA will be hosting a coffee morning with all proceeds going to The Macmilan Cancer Support Fund.

In addition, we will be asking children to bring in 50p that day in exchange for a daffodil bulb which we will plant in our school grounds.

We all know families who have been affected by this illness and hope that you will support us in taking a positive action to make a difference for this very worthwhile charity.

**Pupil premium**

The pupil premium is additional funding given to state-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. To see if your child qualifies for this funding please go to the Devon County Council website and in the search button type pupil premium. You will then be directed to the right page where an instant decision can be made.

**Volunteers**

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who offer a wide range of skills and support.

If you would like to find out about volunteer opportunities either to give something back or to develop your own skills in readiness for paid work then please do call in at the office to find out more.

**Running Track**

Our whole school has been enjoying time outside on the new all weather track. At different times of the day you can see class groups walking and or running around the track to build up their activity levels.

On Tuesday 23rd September we will have an official opening of the track. Will Tidball is an 18 year old Devon Sports Champion who is now a member of the GB team for cycling. He is coming in to school to open the track and talk to our children about his journey to GB with a focus on two of our school values : aiming high and resilience.

**Tesco Success**

Many thanks to all of the parents and families who supported our community finding application in The Tesco stores last term. We won ! Mrs Burrough made the bid to further develop Robin Class outdoor area so we look forward to a before and after photo. It will likely be next term before we see any of the planned changes taking effect. Well done all.

**PE Gold Award**

We have just had the news that we achieved The Gold Standard Award for our sports activity programme last year. Well done everyone!

**Year 6 children-Secondary admissions**

Please note the deadline for applying for your child’s secondary school place is 31st October 2018.

**Music Lessons**

If your child has expressed an interest in exploring musical instrument tuition then please do speak to Mrs Burrough who can explain the options for your child.

**Our Garden Area**

We have been developing ideas and resources for a garden area at the edge of the school field. We would be grateful for any time and expertise that any parents or relatives could offer. Our first challenge is to dig out the area and put down a membrane. If anyone owns a digger or is a dab hand with a spade then do let us know.

We also have three very overgrown raised beds which are in desperate need of some TLC. Again, any support in developing either of these areas would be very much appreciated.

Please phone, email or call it at the office if you can help in any way.

**Parking**

Just a reminder that no parents are permitted (unless already agreed)to park in the school carpark.

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Living, loving and learning with God

