

Friday 24th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge thank you for your continued support in making St Mary’s a very busy and purposeful community.

**Year 6 SATS week**

Across the country there were headlines and news of children feeling anxious and unhappy. Here at St Mary’s our children approached the week knowing that they had worked hard and we asked them to look forward to showing their skills.

Each morning the children arrived early for a breakfast and chatted happily together, sharing a range of breads, fruit and yoghurts. We did get through a mountain of pancakes which turned out to be the firm favourites.

On Friday the whole of Eagle Class designed and made waffles. Their work is on our school website.

We were very pleased that they managed the week very positively and were able to demonstrate our values with great confidence.

On Tuesday they received their leavers hoodies in our assembly and we celebrated their work as leaders across our school. Some of our younger children did worry that the Year 6 children were leaving that day but hopefully they were reassured that we still have our Year 6 in school until July!

**Sports for all**

We have had a very busy half term with all classes taking part in their curriculum lessons and in extra activities both in the school day and after. We have had so many successes.

We do appreciate the hard work that goes into ensuring that your child has the correct permissions and equipment but we do believe that these opportunities are helping them to develop confidence and skills as well as having fun and developing their fitness. In a time when across the country there are concerns that children are becoming increasingly inactive and unhealthy we are so pleased that are children are able to be so physically active which is good for their all round well being. Again, the running track, paid in part from PTFA funds, continues to be so loved by so many of our children. Our daily mile is for some the highlight of each day, where they are showing great resilience and skill.

**St Mary’s Celebration**

Today we combined the PTFA fund raiser with a celebration of our school saint St Mary. It has been a lovely community event with the field a hub of activity.

Eagles went to mass and then our whole school took part in a short celebration in the hall before moving outside to enjoy the equipment available.

We are looking forward to the end of the day when families have the opportunity to stay and play with the inflatable and the other equipment.

We continue to be very grateful to the PTFA for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Their next event is the much awaited Planetarium on Wednesday 12th June. The school hall will be turned into a planetarium for a day so that children can have an experience of the stars as part of a science inspire event.

**Public Speaking Year 5 and 6**

After the holidays Year 5 and Year 6 will begin to prepare for public speaking. The theme again will be people who inspire us. This can be people in the present day, people from history, those who are famous or not. We will share full details when we return to school but the holidays may be a good time to begin to encourage your child to do some research.

**St Mary’s Got Talent**

St Mary’s has so much talent. Last year we were overwhelmed by this event. You may want to encourage your child to think about what they could share in this year’s event. Every talent is welcome. More information will be shared next half term via the school council.

**Change Makers**

We are very keen for our children to see that they can make a difference and promote positive change in all areas of our school life. Here are some of the ways they have been working:

**Rights Respect Bronze Award**

We were very pleased to achieve the Bronze award and continue to work towards the Silver. One of the activities includes the development of our Stop and Tell; where children have learned that they do have the right to feel safe and happy and that telling others to stop and seeking help is a positive and assertive skill; essential for young and old as we navigate the challenges of a media driven world. We have begun to introduce the idea od restorative approaches and will be building on that next half term with our older pupils.

**School Council Reduce, reuse, recycle**

You may remember that our school council have been working on reducing our school waste and took part in a waste audit recently. The full report is now back with us and next half term our school council will be working to ensure take more actions to improve our waste levels.

More recently a group of kestrel Year 5’s lead an assembly about single use plastic and why we should be working to reduce this.

**Parent Voice**

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 time**

We do love the sunshine and days when the children can play on our school field at breaktimes. However it also brings concerns about being in the sun. We always work to encourage children to drink as much water as they can in the school day. If your child needs hayfever, allergy or asthma medication please ensure that we know this and that in date medication is available. We are advised that all children should have sun protection so would ask that you provide your child with a sun hat and put sun cream on them before school. If you wish for your child to have a top up of sun cream at lunchtime, please send a small bottle of sun cream in their book bag for them to apply. We are unable to apply the sun cream ourselves, but the children can apply it to themselves. If there is a particular sensitivity for your child please discuss their needs directly with their class teacher who will then ensure that any necessary medical procedures are followed via our admin office.

**Crossing Patrol**

A reminder 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 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/>

**Key Dates for your forward planning**

Monday 3rd June-INSET day school closed to children

Tuesday 4th June-Children return to school

Tuesday 4th June-Robins swimming (please remember their swimming kits)

Thursday 6th June-Class photos in the afternoon. **Please can children come to school in their uniform and bring their P.E kits in a bag to get changed into.**

Friday 7th June- Owls Class to forest farm

Wednesday 12th June-Science Planetarium visit in school

Wednesday 12th June-Kestrels Cake sale after school

Monday 17th June-Year 5s Bik ability week

Friday 21st June-Owl Class to Forest Farm

Monday 24th June-Eagles Class Orienteering Trip

Tuesday 25th June 6pm-Music Concert (choir/orchestra and music seeds)

Thursday 27th June-Lunchtime music concert at The Minster choir and orchestra

Friday 28th June-Sports Day

Thursday 4th July-Year 6 transition day to Axe Valley

Friday 5th July-Non uniform day-bring a bottle for fete

Friday 5th July-PTFA Summer Fete

Saturday 6th July-Dalwood music festival

Monday 8th July( afternoon)- class production (all year 5s and 6s)

Tuesday 9th July (evening)- class production (all year 5s and 6s)

Wednesday 10th July (evening)- class production (all 5s and 6s)

Friday 12th July-Reserve wet weather sports day

Friday 12th July –ALL CLUBS FINISH

Tuesday 16th July-Reports out to parents/carers

Tuesday 16th July-Kestrels Forest farm

Tuesday 16th July-Eagle Class open afternoon 3pm

Wednesday 17th July-Friday 19th July Year 6 residential to Heatree

Monday 22nd July 10am End of term Leavers Mass

Tuesday 23rd July 9.30am Year 6 Leavers assembly

Tuesday 23rd July-Last day of term

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September

**We wish you all a very happy and restful half term!**