St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number 1 07/09/18

**Welcome to the new school year**

We hope that you all enjoyed a very safe and happy summer holiday and look forward to sharing the year ahead with you.

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 success in all areas of school life.

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.

My first two terms at St Mary’s saw many improvements to the systems and processes that support children’s learning. We were very pleased with the end of year results which showed the hard work and commitment of all at St Mary’s. We know we have lots more to do this year and very much look forward to working with you all to achieve the best for all of our children.

Mrs Mannix

**Classes 2018 – 19**

We welcome some new teachers and support staff this year.

Robins – Foundation pupils – 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

**Robin Class Welcome to all our children and their families**

Robin class children have successfully navigated their first week with us. On Thursday and Friday they had lunch with us. Next week they will be starting full time. There have been many successes with very happy children showing that they are eager to listen and learn. Well done Robin Class on a great start.

Parents please note that we have Celebration assemblies on Friday afternoon at 3.00p.m. You are most welcome to come and share this lovely occasion with us.

**Contact details**

**Please ensure that all contact details are up to date. We send most information by email rather than paper copy so please ensure that you do access this and read the information shared.**

**Achievement 2018 and next steps**

Children at St Mary’s are valued for who they are not what they do but we also know that if children feel safe and happy they will learn. We also believe that to be successful they need strong skills in reading, writing and maths so much of our curriculum time is given to developing and deepening skills in these areas.

So we were pleased with our end of year results and hope that they are a very positive sign for our school community and that our focus and priorities are on track**.**

If you do have any worries or concerns about any aspect of your child’s experience at St Mary’s then please always speak to your child’s class teacher first and if you remain concerned then speak with Mrs Mannix. You are your child’s first educator and an important influence in their world so your insights, knowledge and instincts are always appreciated.

Our results for 2017 to 18 can be found on our school website: following Statutory Information : 2018 : our use the following link : [**http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website/2018\_results\_/363045**](http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website/2018_results_/363045)

**Wider Curriculum**

St Mary’s offers all pupils significant experience in music and PE. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument please do talk to Mrs Burrough who will be pleased to work with you and your child to identify the right instrument.

This year we have been looking to extend opportunities available for our children to support their learning of core skills.

Taekwondo will be part of the curriculum for Year 4, 5 and 6 as well as Woodpecker Class.

Owl and Woodpecker Class will access forest school this term and we hope to extend this later in the year.

We have worked with Colyton , Woodruff and Axe Valley to offer our older pupils experiences in maths and science as focused projects both here and at the secondary school.

This year kestrel class will be taking part in a local ecology project to apply their maths and scientific skills.

We continue to look for further no cost opportunities to extend and enrich the curriculum for the children.

**Trips and Residentials**

We are also keen to offer as many pupils as possible experiences to enhance their learning by attending trips and residentials. We believe that all of these are purposeful and offer great opportunities. Whilst we work to keep costs down we cannot run these events without the financial and practical support of parents; to return paperwork, to volunteer and to make payments on time. We thank you most sincerely for your support with this.

**Pupil Leaders and Teams**

Following their successful leadership training in July, all of year 6 will have responsibilities across the school. Every year six pupil will take on the role as mentor to our younger pupils.

In addition we will have year 6 captains to represent our school teams : St Andrew, St David, St George and St Patrick.

Every pupil is part of a school team and this year we will be introducing team points which we will be given to children for their ‘star ‘ attitudes. These points will be collated weekly and we will share the results in our Friday celebration assembly.

**Running Track**

The day after school closed there was much activity and excitement on our school filed with the arrival of a team who spent three days creating our daily mile track. This is an all-weather surface that borders the boundary of our school so that children can walk and run the track each day. This helps all with their fitness and wellbeing.

The children have already made good use of the track but we look forward to its official opening later this term.

**After school Clubs**

After school clubs will start on week beginning 17th September and will appear on Parent Pay from Monday 10th September.

Monday: Orchestra 3.30 to 4.30

Tuesday: Choir 8.15 to 8.45 Taekwondo 3.30 to 4.30

Wednesday: Gymnastics 3.30 to 4.30 Recorder 3.30 to 4.00

Thursday: Music Seeds 8.25 to 8.55 Running Club 8.00 to 8.45 Football 3.30 to 4.30 Multiskills 3.30 to 4.30

Friday: Gymnastics 3.30 to 4.30

**Wellington Boot Amnesty**

Our forest school leader has suggested that we ask if you have any wellingtons that children have grown out of. Please bring them in to the school office. Thank you.

**Headlice**

A number of cases of headlice have been reported. Please check your child’s hair and treat if necessary.

**Parking**

The carpark is for staff and church use only. Please can parents and carers refrain from using it for drop off and pick up.

**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 May to 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

