Newsletter no.1

15 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very pleased to be sending you the first St Mary's School Newsletter of the new school year. I hope you find it informative and interesting. If you have any ideas for improving our newsletters we'd love to hear from you.

As you may know, I have been absent from school since the start of the school year as a result of a broken leg. I was able to return to school on Wednesday but, as I still need to use crutches, I am confined to office duties. I hope to be able to finally meet the children at an assembly next week and to meet parents and carers at the start or end of the day as soon as possible. I will, hopefully, have my cast removed in a few weeks and then be able to roam freely throughout the school.

In the meantime, should you wish to speak to me, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

**Volunteer readers**

Woodpeckers and Eagles Class are looking for volunteers to come into school to listen to the children read. If you could spare a little time each week to volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated by both the staff and the children. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please pop into the office to speak with Mrs Brett or Mrs Newcombe. We need to carry out a DBS check on all volunteers who come into school. As such, please speak with the office staff and they will advise you as to the documents they need to get this processed.

**Parking in the school carpark**

Just a gentle reminder that no parent (unless they have an agreement with Mr Shannon) may park in the school car park. This includes dropping off and collecting children at the start and end of the day. Please may we also remind parents to walk their children down through the path rather than cutting across the car park.

**Absence from school**

If your child is going to absent from school due to illness, please telephone the school office by 9.00am on the same day. The school office is manned from 8.45am so if you call before then, please leave a message on the answerphone and Mrs Brett or Mrs Newcombe will pick it up once they start work.

**School dinners**

Please remember, if you would like your child to have a school meal you must now order it via Parentpay. Thank you to those parents who are using this system. Please select what you would like your child to have. Even if they have the same option each day, **EVERYONE must now order a meal for their child**. It is important this process if followed so that Axminster kitchen can make and prepare enough food for all the children who require a lunch.

**Eagles swimming lessons**

This term, Eagles Class are having their swimming lessons at Flamingo Pool. Thank you to those parents who have paid via Parentpay. If you have not paid for your child yet, please log on to Parent pay as soon as possible to make payment.

**Term dates 2017-2018**

Please see below the dates for this academic year.

Half Term : Monday 23 October to 27th October 2017

Last day of Autumn term : Friday 15December 2017 at 1.15pm

INSET day : Tuesday 2 January 2018

Children return to school : Wednesday 3 January 2018

Half term : Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February 2018

Last day of Spring term : Thursday 29 March 2018 at 1.15pm

Children return to school : Monday 16 April 2018

Half Term : Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018

Last day of summer term : Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 1.15pm

**Meal Time Assistant**

We currently have a vacancy for a Meal Time Assistant (8.75 hr/week, term time only,

£8.20 per hour). Please either pop into the office or email admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk for an application pack. The deadline for applications is Friday 22 September.

**PTFA AGM**

The date for the PTFA AGM is Thursday 28 September at 2.00pm. Please come along if you can, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

**Clubs**

After school, you will receive our new clubs timetable for the Autumn Term. Please select the club your child would like to attend and return your slip to the office as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

John Shannon

Headteacher