Tuesday 30th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is almost the end of this Spring term. There is much to celebrate. We all worked well to get through lockdown 3 and the 8th March return to school, despite some challenges has progressed well.

This week in school we have been reviewing each child’s learning this year and putting in plans to ensure that progress continues next term.

We have seen glimpses of sunshine and begun to talk to the children about being able to use the field soon. Secretly we did hope that we would access it last Friday as the field was beginning to dry out and it had been cut in preparation but it turned out unexpectedly to be a day of short, sharp and heavy bouts of rain. So it looks now that this will be something to look forward to next term.

We did see some small steps back to normality this term. Mr Munane is now teaching all year groups and Mrs Gibbs has built up her music classes and will be teaching every class after Easter.

After Easter Woodpecker Class will be returning to group tables rather than single, facing forward tables and Robin Class parents will be asked to return the use of book bags so that children can begin to take home real books. We will closely monitor these with a view to stepping this through the school as appropriate.

Next term our gymnastics academy work will resume with Woodpecker Class continuing to access lessons and Robin Class starting lessons. We are in discussions about the possibility of resuming one to one music lessons.

On the second week back after the Easter break (w/c 26th April) we will be commencing the return of some before and after school opportunities – these will be for single class access only. Letters will be sent out to the classes directly for these by the end of term which will allow you to book a place for your child/ren should you wish. The following opportunities will be available:

\*Monday after school 3.30-4.30-Owl Class Multisport club with Mrs Burrough

\*Wednesday after school 3.30-4.30 -Kestrel Class multi sport club with Mr Mark Bailey

\*Thursday AM 8.00-8.45- Eagle Class running club with Mr Murnane

\*Thursday after school 3.30-4.30 Eagle Class cricket/rounders with Mr Murnane

\*Friday AM 8.00-8.45 Kestrel Class running club with Mr Murnane

We are keen to have as many pupils involved as possible. Whilst there will be no formal charge for these, with sports premium being used, we welcome a voluntary contribution where possible. Please let us know via the school office if you would like to do this and we will arrange it via Parentpay.

**Summer Fundraising Sports Challenge ‘Run to Tokyo’**

As soon as we return to school next term we will begin our whole school summer fund raiser ‘run to Tokyo’- please see the attached information.

I am very sad to tell you that Poppy, after her long awaited operation is now back in hospital and is expected to have to have further procedures. Poppy has been very much in our thoughts this year so we are hoping that our Run to Tokyo will be a very positive action to support her.

**Parent information**

Next term we will arrange parent reviews so that you can catch up on the details of your child’s learning. You will appreciate that a second lockdown and a year of Covid restrictions has brought some challenges to everyone and some families have been very hard it. School remains a very positive and supportive place and we have worked hard to create an environment that restores all that we achieved before we heard of Covid. There are many additional interventions happening in school to ensure children can progress.

**Holy Week and Easter**

The parish have funded an Easter Story comic book for each child in school so we will be sharing these with the children this week and will send them home at the end of the week. Easter is a time is for hope and never more has that been needed than this year. On Thursday as part of our Easter celebrations children will be given an Easter egg as well as within their classes taking part in some reflection and celebration activities to end the term positively.

**Safety**

Our oldest children in Kestrel and Eagle Class have taken part in half day workshops this week to further develop their awareness and skills in keeping themselves safe.

As a school we have many ways to develop their skills but having an external agency has been very positive.

A reminder as we approach the holiday that the internet offers many positive ways for learning but it can bring challenges.  Children who socialise with their school friends can be drawn into wrong choices.

More potential challenge  can come from new contacts who the children do not know face to face.

Children do need safe supervision despite what they tell us and maintaining a rule that says you will be checking and that you do know who they are contacting will prepare the pathway into their teenage years.

Over the last year we have introduced the children to many on line and very purposeful learning tools to develop skills and have fun.  Please do encourage them to use these over the holidays.

**School uniform**

After the Easter break parents may choose to send their child/ren into school in the summer uniform if they so wish. The summer dresses can be purchased from Marks and Spencers (please see link below)

[Girls' Pure Cotton Striped School Dress | M&S (marksandspencer.com)](https://www.marksandspencer.com/girls-pure-cotton-striped-dress/p/clp60438242?color=MIDBLUE#intid=plpnav_swatch&prevPage=srp) This is school summer dress we would like to be worn. However, we do recognise that it is not always possible for parents to purchase this particular dress. If this is the case a navy blue checked dress can be worn as an alternative.

Parents also have the option of purchasing the navy summer polo shirt (available from Honiton Sports shop) which can be worn with navy skirts, grey trousers or shorts.

Please may we request that school shoes are worn on days when the children do not have P.E. Also a reminder that hair should be tied back in a hair band and not loose.

If your child has grown out of any of their school uniform, items can be ordered online via the Honiton Sports Shop website, please see link below:

[www.honiton-sports-shop.myshopify.com](http://www.honiton-sports-shop.myshopify.com/)

Items can then be collected by their click and collect service. Staff are available in the shop on Mondays between 9am - 3pm for items to be collected.  However, they have recommended ringing or messaging before travelling just in case of any change. Their telephone number is 01404 42100 or email [honitonsports@gmail.com](mailto:honitonsports@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can message them via the Honiton Sports Facebook page.

**Track and Trace**

As in previous breaks, we will be following the Where pupils who have attended school **test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (Thursday 1st April from 3.30pm-Saturday 3rd April to 3.30pm)** please telephone the schools emergency telephone number on 07512 079 520. This will enable us to identify all close contacts as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. We hope that this will not be necessary but should it happen please help us by following the action above. If we need to contact Parents and Carers we will do so by phone or email. You do not need to contact us if you test positive or develop symptoms after the 48hour period. After this date then you are asked to follow the normal Government advice re testing and self isolating.

School meals

**School meals**

The new summer term menu is now available on Parent pay. Thank you to all those parents who are booking their child’s meals in advance, it is greatly appreciated. As our last day of term is Thursday 1st April, Mrs Newcombe will be placing the meal order for our first week back after Easter on this day. **As such, if you would like your child to have a meal for the first week back please may I ask you to book this on Parentpay by the end of the day tomorrow (Wednesday 31st March).**

**Office staff**

After the Easter break we are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Natalie Markham to our school office team. She will be working in the school office every Thursday and Friday. Mrs Newcombe will be in the office Monday to Thursday.

**P.E lessons for the Summer Term**

Please see below for the P.E days after Easter for each class. On these days please send your child into school dressed in their P.E kit.

**Robin Class**-Tuesdays and Thursday

**Woodpecker Class**-Wednesday and Thursday

**Owl Class**-Wednesday and Thursday

**Kestrel Class**-Wednesday and Thursday

**Eagle Class**-Monday and Thursday

**Red nose day**

Thank you to everyone who donated to Red nose day. As a school we raised a total of £123.60

**Easter Gardens/cakes**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in a picture of their Easter garden or bake. We are printing out the pictures and displaying them on a board just outside the playground for everyone to see.

**PTFA Easter hamper raffle**

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated Easter eggs for the raffle. We have had a great response to this and your support is greatly appreciated. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 1st April which is our last day of term.

**Term dates reminder for the Summer Term.**

We return to school on Monday 19th April.

Bank holiday (school closed) Monday 3rd May

Half term Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

INSET day (school closed to children) Monday 7th June 2021

Last day of summer term is Tuesday 27th July 2021.

A sincere wish for a safe and happy Easter break from all at St Mary’s.

Mrs Mannix