



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Monday 18th September 2023

Newsletter 01

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness

Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to the start of another year at St Mary's - and a special welcome to all those new children who have joined us for the first time. Our new Reception children have started their primary school education in Duckling Class - some were with us in Hedgehog Nursery and others have come to us from elsewhere - but you all look very smart in your St Mary's uniforms and it's a privilege to see you embark on the start of your journey with us. Everyone has settled into their new year groups quickly and have taken the start of the school year in their stride. Our new Year 6 children are now the role models for the rest of the school and I have no doubt they will make us all proud with their behaviour and attitude this year. We also extend a big welcome to all of the new members to our staff team.

I look forward to seeing you all grow throughout the year with kindness and compassion for everyone. Keep our Christian Values in your mind at all times.

Mrs Parsons

House Points Winners

Well done to **Topaz** for being our House Point winners this week.

Attendance Winners

Congratulations to **the whole school** these first two weeks, attendance has been superb!! Thank you all.



Outside Achievements



Well done to **Olivia, Max, Bea, Spencer** and **Mila** on completing the Summer Reading Challenge and to all the other children who took part. **Bea** was also awarded Grade 4 in Gymnastics!



Clubs

With Activity Clubs starting this week, we have been busy with a total of 12 different clubs available.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis and are available on ParentPay to book. This year, we As part of a continued effort to widen opportunities for children, some clubs are run by external providers. We are going to continue to offer the clubs provided by our St Mary's Team at a cost of £1 per week for after school and 50p per week for a lunchtime club. We have had to increase the cost of the externally provided clubs to £2.00 per week in order to start to cover the cost. This year, we are offering all clubs free of charge for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium. Please check closely whether the club is an afterschool or a lunchtime club. Clubs run from 3.15-4.15pm (unless stated).

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/uploads/files/clubs-t1-2023.pdf>

A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell. **The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.**

Office News:

Please see attached list of term dates for the next school year.

Communication

There are several ways we communicate with our parents / carers.

- Seesaw will be used for both class communication and the Office.
- ParentPay, as we are a cash free school, all meals, trips and donations are made via ParentPay - please contact us if you need help setting this up. The deadline for order school meals is Thursday 11.59pm for the following week.
- Class Teachers bring the children out at the end of the day, they are available then if you need to speak to them directly.
- A member of the Leadership team is at the Entrance every morning and also at the of the day should you wish to discuss anything with them.
- The school office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm every day, pop in and see us and we will do our best to help!
- If you would prefer to email, please use office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk and we will forward your email to the relevant member of staff.

- You can leave a message on our school answerphone on 01761 470245.

Data Collection forms

These have been sent home with your child/ren. Please check the details we hold on file for your child/ren. We ask that you check and where necessary update the form and return to the school office as soon as possible. Please pay particular attention to any medical conditions, allergies and contact details.

Packed Lunches

Please see link below for some healthy ideas for lunchboxes brought into school

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

We have also attached the food and packed lunch policy from the Trust to give you guidance on what should go inside your child's packed lunch.

We are a NUT FREE school - please remember this when sending in snacks and packed lunches to help keep all members of our school safe.

Parents Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a parents coffee morning on **Thursday 28th September.**

We are starting with a SEND coffee morning. Future coffee morning themes will include internet safety, play and mental health. Other suggestions are warmly welcomed. All parents are welcome to join us to ask any questions about SEND, our approach at St. Marys and specific time to talk to the SEND team. This will be an informal event around a cup of coffee and some cake with time to chat and mingle. It would be great to see lots of you at this event.



Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award last week

Ducklings:

Rabbits:

Badgers

Foxes:

Lions:

Eagles:

Kaynon,

Jayden

Violet

Imogen

Jack T



Wellies



Please can all children have a pair of named wellies in school at all times please. We have lots of storage to keep them safe and this means that the children can use our fabulous grounds year round without ruining their lovely new school shoes! If you have any unwanted wellies that your children have grown out of, we would really appreciate donations for spares.

School Photos

Nigel Coles will be visiting the school to take individual school photos, this will be taking place on Tuesday the 26th of September. Please can we remind every to come in full school uniform. There will be an opportunity from 8.15am to arrive so that sibling photos can be taken. We would also invite any of our Hedgehog children in Nursery to take part, it doesn't have to be a day you attend, you can just pop in from 8.15am to 9.15am.

Hedgehogs



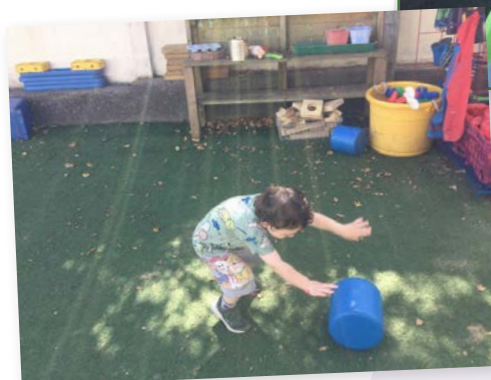
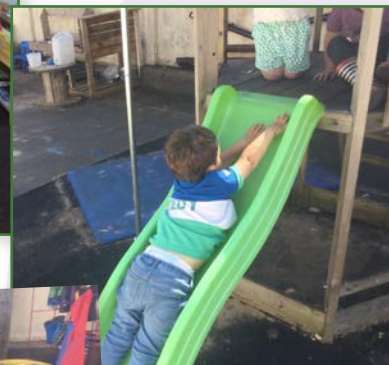
Class News:

The children have settled in really well to our nursery and have been enjoying playing together. We went on a walk to the woody area and collected acorns, sticks, leaves, feathers etc and made pictures with them. We'll put this on our wall to add to our Autumn display. We have made leaves to go on our Autumn tree display, the leaves show our comments about what we like and would like to do more of in Nursery.

We've been making face pictures with playdough, buttons, shiny paper and other materials in our art and craft area. We're learning all about ourselves and our features, noticing our own and others.

It's been a busy and exciting start to the term.

EYFS Team



Ducklings



Class News:

What an amazing start to the year. Two weeks in and the children are learning fast. We're learning about class routines and having two musical teachers there is a lot of singing to help us do this.

We're having fun exploring the new environment and enjoying making new friends. We have fun at lunchtime on the big playground with all the children having even more toys and activities to enjoy.

We've been reading lots of books and even started our phonics lessons. You'll be surprised about how many sounds we can recognise and say already.

We're looking forward to spending the whole day in school next week and finding even more opportunities to learn. We are contributing to the school **Exhibition of Excellence** and we are all having a go at drawing and then improving drawing a duck. Watch this space for more information!

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

What an amazing two weeks we have had in Rabbits Class! I have been super impressed with how well they have all settled into Year 1. Despite the big changes from Reception to Year 1, Rabbit Class have handled this so well and all have a great attitude to learning.

We have started off the year by looking at the story 'The Colour Monster' in English. In Maths, we have been learning all about place value up to 10 by grouping, counting and sorting objects. We have also had our first Forest School session this week where we explored our wonderful Forest School area. Year 1 have made a great start to the year by always being polite and kind to those in the school. I am looking forward to a great year in Rabbits Class.

Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:



We have a brilliant first two weeks of the 2023-24 school year! Badgers have been settled since day one which means we have been able to start our Year 2 curriculum straight away.

In PE, we have been learning the difference between sprinting and jogging and noticing the changes in our body. We have also been investigating how to dodge and change direction quickly.

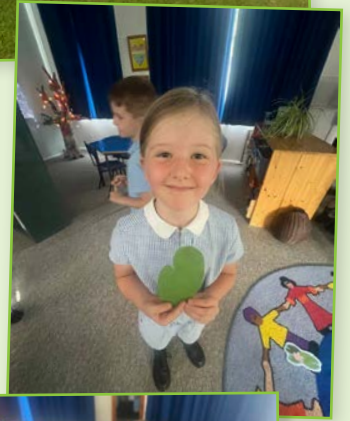
Our DT topic this term is all about *designing a chair for baby bear*. Firstly, we had to explore which structures are most stable: spheres, cuboids or pyramids. We predicted that the sphere would not be very stable because balls roll. We thought the pyramid or the cube would be the strongest because the flat sides would stop it from rolling and we know the Eiffel Tower is shaped

like a triangle. Ask the Badgers which shape was most stable.

Finally, in English we started our new unit of *writing with a strange experience* - The Lodge was covered in lily pads and water! Mrs Purnell told us she thought she saw frogs flying past the window on Tuesday night! This is linked to our new text, Tuesday where on a Tuesday, at around 8 o'clock, frogs started levitating and caused chaos across a town. I can't wait to see what the children write about the pigs who start flying the following week!

Well done on a great start to the year Badgers, we're going to have a fantastic year!

Mrs Newman



Foxes Class



Class News:

What a wonderful start to the academic year! The fabulous Foxes have settled into their new learning.

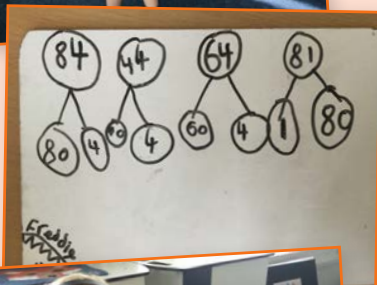
We started with a wonderful project, linked to our current learning about Ancient Egypt. The children, inspired by 'Austin's Butterfly', have created a series of drafts with improvements being made, leading to their final piece. The children have been reflective through this process and it has been great to hear the children encourage each other. This will be displayed as part of the Exhibition of Excellence on 28th September.

In English, we have started our new text - *The Egyptian Cinderella* by Shirley Climo. The children had great fun making predictions about the text using a series of clues. The children acted out the original Cinderella story to help make links to this different version.

In Maths, we are learning about the place value of hundreds, tens and ones. The children enjoyed drawing part-whole models.

Our PE sessions are being led by a cricket coach every Friday afternoon which the children are really enjoying.

Mrs Hayward



Lions



Class News:

Well, what a great start to Year 4. The Lions have really impressed with their positive attitude and enthusiasm towards their learning.

In PE, we have resumed our weekly swimming sessions and it has been lovely to see how many children have been practicing over the summer and have improved in their confidence and technique.

In Science, we are learning about *electricity* and we used a computer programme to identify electrical hazards in the home.

In PSHE, we have thought hard about how to make our class work most effectively as a team and we had to agree on the most important attributes of a well functioning team.

Finally, we have enjoyed choosing our new reading books from the library and it has been fantastic to see the level of enthusiasm for reading in the class.

What a great start Lions, we are going to have a great year!

Mrs Brown



Eagles



Class News:

It has been a brilliant start to the year by our two groups of Eagles. Although we are still officially one class, the Year 6 cohort are having all of their lessons in the Eyrie whereas the Year 5 pupils are enjoying being taught for a large part of the week by Miss Heath in our satellite classroom (previously known as the Music Room). This allows our oldest children the opportunity to feel that their final year at St Mary's is a special experience for them - whilst also ensuring that their needs can be more easily met as we aim to ensure they meet the end of Key Stage 2 expectations and that they feel prepared for the transition to secondary school.

The main task taking place in the early stages of Term 1 has been this year's '*Austin's Butterfly*' project where the children have been producing several drafts of a particular piece of work, acting on advice and suggestions for improvement provided by their peers in between each stage. You can see this feedback happening in the photo showing our Eagles writing comments on post-it notes. To tie in with our History topic of **World War 2**, we have created our own versions of posters in the same style as those produced by the government at the time to encourage people at home to help win the war. You will be able to see the learning journeys we have been on when our work is displayed at our school exhibition on Thursday 28th September.

Mr Daniels



Jeans for Genes!

We will be taking part in this year's '**Jeans for Genes**' 2023 on **Friday 29th of September**. Jeans for Genes works with schools, companies and individuals all over the UK to provide services and support for the children and their families affected by genetic conditions. 1 in 25 children – on average one child per classroom - has a genetic condition that makes their life very challenging. Together, through fund and awareness raising, we can help make a real difference to their lives. All children and staff are invited to wear their jeans on Friday 29th September. We'd really love to see as many classes and students as possible in their jeans, so please encourage your child to come into school on the day wearing their jeans and with their **£1 donation**. You will be able to donate on Parentpay from Monday afternoon.



Gardening Club

The children enjoyed gardening club this week. We are very grateful for all the donations we received in the spring and summer term last year, including: tomato plants, pumpkin plants, cucumber plants, sunflower plants, lettuce plants and many more. Gardening club were amazed at the amount we harvested this week! Thank you again for supporting the gardening club with donations. Further donations for the Autumn planting season would be very welcome!



Dates for your Calendar 2023/24 - Term 1 onwards

Date	Event	Notes
18.09.2023	Year 6 Residential PGL Osmington Bay	
28.09.2023	Art exhibition in school	Whole School
28.09.2023	Parents coffee morning. SEND focus.	
29.09.2023	Jeans for Genes Day	Whole School
04.10.2023	Football Event with Trinity	KS2
11.10.2023	Year 6 class assembly	Year 6
06.10.2023	Hello Yellow mental health day	Whole School
12.10.2023	Year 1 Parent workshop	
13.10.2023	Show racism the red card	Whole day
18.10.2023	Harvest Festival at the Church. Led by Lions	
19.10.2023	Year 3 Parent Workshop 2-3pm	Foxes
20.10.2023	Year 2 parent workshop 9 - 10	Badgers
20.10.2023	End of term 1	
30.10.2023	Inset Day	
31.10.2023	Start of Term 2	

Read Around the World reading challenge



On Thursday 13th September, we introduced our new reading challenge!

'Read Around the World'

Children are encouraged to read at home at least 4 times a week in order to read their way around the whole world!

Every time your child reads at home, they will get a tick on their classroom chart.

The aim is to make it back to Timsbury!

- **1st stop** New York (20 reads) – certificate
- **2nd stop** Rio de Janeiro (40 reads) – certificate
- **3rd stop** Nairobi (70 reads) - certificate
- **4th stop** Sydney (100 reads) – this is the halfway mark and there will be an additional prize for this. You should aim to be reaching Sydney by February half term if you want to make it back to Timsbury!
- **5th stop** Beijing (130 reads) – certificate
- **6th stop** Athens (160 reads) – certificate
- **7th stop** Timsbury (200 reads) – You've made it back home! A very special prize is awaiting everyone who makes it back in time!

Please see the letter sent home on Friday 14th September for more information.

Reading Miles Global Challenge

Read your way... around the world!

