



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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Autumn Term 2019 Term 1 Week 1

Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parent,
 On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to warmly welcome you back to school after the summer break. The children have, as always, returned to school in a very positive and enthusiastic manner - ready to immerse themselves in learning (and play!).

Our new Reception class pupils have made an excellent start to their school years at St Mary's and are already adapting well to the expectation and routines of the classroom. I would especially like to welcome parents who are new to St Mary's this term- I know that you will find our school community very welcoming and friendly.

If you have any particular problems or questions please feel free to email me (head@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk), catch me on the playground or call to make an appointment to see me.

Liam Jordan (Head Teacher)

PAPER NEWSLETTER COPIES

Now that all parents have email addresses registered on the School Gateway system we will send the newsletter via email each week. **This week is the final time that we will send out paper copies via the pupils - there will be paper copies available on the shelf outside the school office so please collect one if you wish to.** The change to email is in a bid to save admin time and reduce copying costs. We will review this approach next term (following the Parent Survey returns).

Summer Term Honours

Children earn Achievement stickers for displaying excellent behaviour and a great attitude to learning. Top sticker earners are awarded a place on the school Honours Board (displayed in the entrance hall)	Reception 2018-19 1 st Florence 2 nd Gracie & Mateo 3 rd Jasmine, Paisley, Sophie, Ugo 4 th Betty & Lyla	Year 1 2018-19 1 st Amirah & Keziah 2 nd Ava-Rose, Billie-Mae & Charlene 3 rd Orlaith, Harriet, Isabella, Max, Maxwell, Rainia & Rose	Year 2 2018-19 1 st Lola, Olivia Jessica, Roko, Evie B, Ava, Edoardo & Saffen
	Year 3 2018-19 1 st Hannah, Denise, Naomi, Oliver & Poppy 2 nd Sylvie 3 rd Amelia & Chipso	Year 4 2018-19 1 st Kayburley 2 nd Amelie, Joshua, Caleb, Ceira O, Olivia & Sophie	Year 5 2018-19 1 st Aahil, Eddy & Emeka 2 nd Carla, Eamonn, Maksui & Martim 3 rd Sofia S, Nella, Dylan, Ayva & Alfie

Forest School:

We are very excited to recommence Forest School sessions next week. **This year we are delighted to be able to offer every class a weekly FS session! This means that pupils will need their FS kit in school for the same day each week (as per the timetable). SESSSIONS START NEXT WEEK**

It is important that children bring the correct kit, otherwise they may be unable to access certain activities due to health and safety concerns. A kit list reminder should be coming home with your child this week. We do not envisage sessions changing, so children should just need to remember their kit on the same day each week, throughout the year.

You may have noticed that we have fenced off our Forest School area this year. Unfortunately, we had a few issues with children playing in the area outside of school hours last year. This meant that valuable preparation time had to be wasted at the start of sessions getting the area in order again.

We would appreciate your support in reminding children that they are not allowed to access the Forest School area outside of their allocated session.

We have lots of exciting sessions planned in the coming year and are looking for resources for a few of them. Below is a wish list of things we thought people might have lying around at home. If you do and can spare any of them please send them our way.

- Old guttering/drainpipes, -Screws/nails, -Hammers, -Timber, -Empty TicTac boxes, -Old kitchen utensils for our mud kitchen;
- Pallets or a vehicle that could collect some for us from Robert Hall, Staverton.

**Thank you for your continued support,
 Mrs Walker (FS Leader) and Mrs Sue Crowley (Volunteer FS Leader)**

Forest School WEEKLY Timetable

	Thursdays	Fridays
AM (9:15-10:30)	Year 4	Reception
AM (10:45-11:50)	Year 3	Year 5
PM (13:05-14:10)	Year 2	Year 1
PM (14:10-15:05)	Year 6	Project Group



School Council Elections

The School Council is a representative group of children who are elected by their peers and help, under the direction of Mrs Fullerton, to lead projects, make decisions on new practices and meet with important visitors. All pupils in Years 1-6 have the opportunity to put themselves forward for election to the School Council, all they need to do is prepare a presentation detailing the skills they have that would make them a good councillor and their ideas for improving the school. Each class elects one boy and one girl (with Y5 & 6 both having an extra councillor) with pupils voting for their preferred candidate in a secret ballot.

The presentations and elections take place on Friday 13th September, a letter from Mrs Fullerton providing more information about the process will be sent home shortly.



Sue Morton

After over 10 years of service to St Mary's, Sue Morton (School Catering Supervisor) has recently taken on a new role in the catering sector. We would like to sincerely thank Sue for her hard work and dedication to our school and her contribution to the provision of high-quality meals to the children (and staff!).

Sue will be very much missed and we wish her the very best for the future.

Waiting outside classrooms:

When collecting pupils at the end of the day please remain on the playground until the 15:15 bell sounds. The end of day is very busy in class and if parents gather directly outside rooms it can be very distracting for pupils and causes congestion (particularly in the area outside the Y3 & Y5 classrooms).

Whilst we appreciate that Infant parents are very interested in how the children settle in to class in the mornings, we would encourage you to 'drop & go' rather than staying to watch the children through the class windows. It is nice to see the class in action but having parents stood by the windows once the school day has commenced can be quite disconcerting for pupils & staff!

Charity Raffle-Win a Family Summer Holiday

Natalie Crowley (Lola's mum year 3) and her father are signed up to trek the highest peak in North Africa - Mount Toubkal next June and will be fundraising for WellChild, a national charity based in Cheltenham supporting families of children with serious health needs.



Part of the fundraising initiative is a raffle to win a week's stay in their holiday lodge in St Merryn in Cornwall during the summer holidays 2020 (this raffle is exclusively for St Mary's Families!). The lodge is located on The Atlantic Bays Holiday Park can accommodate up to 6 people, is located near to a number of beautiful beaches and coastal walks and is only a 10 minute drive to Padstow.

To be in with a chance of winning this holiday purchase a raffle ticket by donating £5 per raffle ticket to their fundraising page leaving your full name and child's school year (you can enter as many times as you like)

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jimandnats>

The winner will be drawn at one of the Christmas events and announced in the newsletter. If you have any questions about the raffle, the charity or the challenge please call Natalie 07812 577520 or chat to her in the playground.



Initial Teacher Training Students

This half-term we are hosting a number of University of Gloucestershire teacher trainees for the first stages of their training experiences. The trainees are based in EYFS Class (Anna Hart), Year 2 (Charmaine Webb), Year 4 (Coral Flynn) and Year 6 (Craig Bluck) and will be working with the children and staff on Mondays and Wednesdays until the end of week 6.

STARS OF THE WEEK



- Y1 Ambrose Byrne - for his superb concentration on his work this week!
- Y2 Ozezy Thomas - for his brilliant listening and showing great focus when working.
- Y3 Jessica Simmonds - for a positive attitude in every lesson this week.
- Y4 Cole Gardiner - for his fantastic knowledge of electricity.
- Y5 Lilly Dix - for her super effort in Maths this week.
- Y6 Eamonn McGurk - for showing a fantastic attitude to learning.



This week's recipients of our **GROWTH MINDSET Awards** for each class are:

- Year 1** - Ugo & Annabelle
- Year 2** - Neve R & Maria
- Year 3** - Neave & Adedayo
- Year 4** - Sylvie & Alex
- Year 5** - Tabitha & Paige
- Year 6** - Jairus & Carla



Term 1: Tuesday 3rd September – Thursday 24th October 2019

Tues 10th September	-09:15 Beginning of term Mass / Nativity of Mary (Our Lady's Church) *
Terms 1 & 2	-Year 4 Swimming. Lessons Start on Monday 23 rd September. (Last Session November).
Mon 16th-Fri 20th Sept	- Autumn Term after-school clubs commence.
Monday 7th October	-Switch to Winter Uniform -School Photographs (09:00-11:45) (Next Gen Photography).
Thursday 10th October	-Year 6 Class Mass* (09:15 in the school hall).
Wednesday 16th October	-15:30-19:00 Parent Consultation Evening (Surnames: A-K) *
Monday 21st October	-15:30-19:00 Parent Consultation Evening (Surnames: L-Z) *
Week ending 24th October	-Experience Harvest event (Our Lady's Church) *
Friday 25th October	Staff Training Day (non-pupil day)

Half-term Friday 25th October to Friday 1st November. Teacher training day on Friday 25th October.

Pupils return on Monday 4th November.

*Parents are welcome to attend these events.