

Friday 9th September 2016

Our Christian Value for the term: Generosity

‘Give and it will be given to you’ (Luke 6:38)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. It is lovely to welcome so many new Reception children and their families to St. Mary's School as well as a number of new families further up the school. All our new children have settled in extremely well and every day when I visit Lime and Cherry Class they have been having a fabulous time learning and playing with their friends. In fact all the children, new and old, have settled happily back into our daily routines.

We are also welcoming several new members of staff to St. Mary's. We are delighted to welcome Mr Meadows who has taken over from Mr Welch as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Key Stage 2. We also welcome Mrs Stancombe who is teaching in Pear Class and Mrs Bladon who is teaching in Holly Class. Welcome also to Mr Lea who is our new school caretaker, Mrs Cole who is working as a teaching assistant in Key Stage 2 and Miss Baker who has joined the cleaning staff.

You should have received a letter from the class teachers explaining what the children will be learning this term and information about daily routines and homework where appropriate. These letters are also available on the school's website under 'Life at St. Mary's' and the relevant Key Stage. We appreciate that there is a lot of communication sent out at the beginning of the year and despite everyone's best efforts it is easy to miss something. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher at the start or end of the day or Mrs Howe in the office.

Whilst we are delighted that the children are really keen to be at school early, please can I remind parents that you need to stay with your children on the playground before 8.40am as there is no adult supervision before that time. Thank you.

Mrs Woolley

Y1 Parents Information Meeting- Athletics

A parents meeting will be held in Mrs Royles classroom on Thursday 15th September at 9:00am for half an hour for Y1 parents.

The meeting will provide you with details and information about the Athletics program we use to support Maths learning at home. We will demonstrate how to log on to the program and how to access support materials.

See you there!

Miss Jackson and Mrs Royle

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Parent/Carers

The newsletter will be available on our Website after 2.30pm every Friday.

The link is: <http://www.stmarystetbury.com/the-office/newsletters>

If you have a look around our web site the newsletters can be found under 'The office section' after 2.30pm every Friday.

Letters Home

Please take the time to read letters carefully as they are our main way of keeping you informed about what is happening in school, all letters home can now be found on our Web site via the following link: <http://www.stmarystetbury.com/the-office/letters>. If you are requested to complete a slip on any letter it makes life a lot easier for our office staff if the slips are returned promptly. This is also the case when sending money into school – this should be in a sealed envelope clearly labelled with your child's name, class, the amount of money and what the money is paying for. We will also put a copy of the weekly newsletter on the school noticeboard.

Medication

Please ensure medication your child requires is handed into the school office at which point you will be asked to complete a Medication Form. Please do not send medication in with your child without seeing a member of staff and completing the form.

Absences

In order to continue to ensure the safety of your child/ren we will need contact from a responsible adult if your child is absent. This should be done via a telephone call to the school office, or popping into the school office if you are bringing other children into school. If we have no confirmation of their absence by 9.15am we will contact you via your home and emergency numbers to ensure your child is safe. This is a time consuming task for our busy office staff, so please remember to contact us! For safety's sake you need to contact the school each day your child is absent.

Holiday/Absence Request

All request's must be made on a form available from the school office, for any time off of school other than illness. Unfortunately holidays cannot be authorised during school time and holidays taken will be marked as unauthorised. Please ask the school office if you are unsure of the Government's Policy on holidays taken during term time.

Appointments Medical/ Dentist etc

All appointments where possible should be made outside school hours. If your child has an appointment please bring a copy the appointment card/letter into the school office, so this can be put with the class register.

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School Lunches and Parentpay

Reception children have now received their activation letter. The menu choices can be booked up to Christmas, so please do this as soon as possible as this helps with the registration process in the morning. (We do check on the day if your child is still having a school lunch or sandwiches, so you can change your mind!)

Fruit and Vegetables

We are continuing the idea put forward by our School Council that KS2 children (Juniors) will be able to bring in a piece of fruit for morning break. Children in KS2 can still opt in to the school Fruit and Veg scheme if they would like (there is a small charge for this). Please speak to the School Office.

Free School Meals – DID YOU KNOW..

All KS1 children are eligible for universal Free School Meals BUT this is not the same as Free school meals and does not attract any additional funding for the school. We encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals, which unlocks extra funding of £1320 per child to help fund valuable support like extra tuition, teaching assistants, school clubs, music lessons and sports activities. This can now be done on line with an immediate answer. Apply on line at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals (you will need to have your National Insurance number available).

Reminder Year 3's - Free School Meals

As you are aware the new year 3 children will no longer receive Universal Infant Free School meals. The cost of a school lunch is £2.20 per meal, payable through parent pay, our on line booking system. We encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals, which unlocks extra funding of £1320 per child to help fund valuable support like extra tuition, teaching assistants, school clubs, music lessons and sports activities activities. This can now be done on line with an immediate answer. Apply on line at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals (you will need to have your National Insurance number available).

Please see the attached leaflet apply online as soon as possible for all your children even if they are in Reception, KS1 or KS2

Milk

All reception children have been registered for the free school milk. This is available for all under 5's. As the children turn five this will become chargeable and an invoice will be sent to the parent/carer from Coolmilk. If you do not want your child to receive milk in school, the parent/carer will need to cancel it. This should be done via Coolmilk. We are unable to do this in the school office.

There is also free milk for anyone entitled to free school meals.

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Milk is available for children from when they are 5 years old through to Year 6 with payment being made to the company who organise the “Cool Milk for Schools”. If you are interested in more details please contact the school office (you can also access details at www.CoolMilk.co.uk).

Grab a Grown-up/Wake and Shake’ Every Tuesday – All year groups from 8.40am

We are changing our usual weekly Grab a Grown up to every other week alternating with our popular Wake and shake. Starting with the Wake and shake Tuesday 13th September all parent/carers are welcome in the playgrounds everyone has a lot of fun so please join in.

The following week Tuesday 20th September will be Grab a Grown Up where children can bring a grown up into school to show them something they have been working on. If you have time come into school for 10 minutes there will be something out on your child’s desk that they can share with you.

This will alternate every week, please don’t feel that you have to come in every week.

Mathletics

Activities will be set on Mathletics from next Friday, 16th September.
In the meantime the children can continue to access *Live Mathletics*.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

STOP, PRESS!

POLLING DAY - Monday 3rd October 2016

Do you like drinking tea and eating cake? Do you like talking about how to make our school better? Do you have a loud voice? Are you in Y1 or above?

If so, YOU should be a school councillor!

Not only do you attend meetings with Miss Jackson, you eat cake, drink tea and make important decisions about our school.

Up for the challenge?

If so, please prepare a speech to present before your classmates during the week beginning Monday September 26th. Classes will then vote for their chosen candidate (s) at the Polling Station on Monday 3rd October 2016. Results will be announced shortly after.

A huge THANK YOU to all of last year’s School Councillors who did an amazing job. Well Done!

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School Letters

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our communication with parents/carers we have set up a new web page called Letters, under School Office, on the school Web Site, via the following link: <http://www.stmarystetbury.com/the-office/letters>. This means the letters can accessed at any time.

Parents Evening

The parents evening dates are as follows:

Monday 7th November 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Wednesday 9th November 4pm - 7pm

An email will go out to parents when the slots become available to book online

Polite Reminder children are not supervised on the playground until 8.45 and parent/carers should stay with their child until this time.

Clubs

Faith Explorers

Sign up now for the Faith Explorers After-school Club. Open to children in Years 2-6, the Club meets in the Den on Wednesdays after school, and finishing at 4.20pm. Our first session is on Wednesday 14th September, and our theme this term is "Exploring what we believe". Led by Poppy and Leslie, each session includes stories, crafts, snacks and time for questions and chats. There are 20 places, so please register now.

Faith Explorers sessions this term:

- **Wednesday 14th September**
- **Wednesday 21st September**
- **Wednesday 5th October**
- **Wednesday 12th October**
- **Wednesday 2nd November**
- **Wednesday 16th November**



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Netball – Mrs Harper and Mrs Smith Years 4, 5 and 6

Netball has moved to Tuesdays this year, the club is open to Y4/5/6 children and will be run by Mrs Harper and Mrs Smith. Netball will start on Tuesday 13th Sept.

Please send in your club slip as soon as possible by email or to the office

French Club

French club be starting the club on Thursday 22nd September Lunchtime 12.30 – 1pm for Rec Y1/2, with Mrs Fuller, please see attached flyer

There are still a few spaces left.

Start date Saplings

Saplings will return for babies and toddlers at 2.00pm on Wednesday 14th September. All welcome please come along with your child. No need to book just drop by and we look forward to seeing you.

Reminders

Please send in any outstanding Morfa Bay payments to the School Office. Thank you.

School Diary

13th September	Wake & Shake 8.40-8.50am	14th October	Last Day of Term
15th September	Yr 1 Parent Information Meeting- Athletics	7th November	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
19th – 23rd September	Yr 6 Morfa Bay	9th November	Parents Evening 4.00pm – 7.00pm
21st September	Yrs 3 & 4 Bristol City Museum trip		
29th September	School Photos		

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Community News

Vaccine Update/Reminder

To give your child the best protection against Measles, Mumps and Rubella a child needs two doses. This is because the vaccine does not always work fully the first time. Therefore if your child has not had a second MMR as part of pre-school vaccines, I would encourage you to do this now by contacting your GP/Practice Nurse. Children in year 1, 2 & 3 are also eligible for flu vaccine this year.

Further information can be accessed from the following website

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>



AGM 20th September all welcome, 7.30pm in The Den