

Friday 6th September 2019

Our Christian Value for the term: Thankfulness

'It is not happy people who are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy' (Anon)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of another school year. I hope you all had a great summer break and that the children feel rested and ready for the challenges of the new school year.

Staff news

We have welcomed our new Reception children into school this week. They have had lots of fun and made new friends and we have enjoyed getting to know them. We have also welcomed **Mr Jones** who is teaching Ash Class this year and **Mrs Bowen, Mrs Eke** and **Mrs Woodman** who have taken up teaching assistant posts in the school.

Unfortunately **Mrs Bell** has been unwell over the summer holidays and she will be absent from school for the time being. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

School Improvement Work

We have continued to improve the **school site** during the summer holidays. The KS1 and EYFS corridor has been painted and we have a lovely new carpet in the corridor and in Holly Class. We have also remodelled the outside play area for Cherry and Lime classes so they now have an all weather surface to play on. The hall roof has also been repaired over the holidays and we have a new fence in the Year 3 and 4 playground to keep children safe.

This work has made a big difference to the teaching, learning and play areas for the children and it was only possible thanks to an additional maintenance grant from the Diocese of Gloucester (for the hall roof), funding from the Governors, the fundraising efforts of our PTFA, parental support of the PTFA organised events and activities and donations from the Feoffees and The Hills Group who are building some of the new homes in Tetbury. Thanks should also go to Mrs Glover who is so proactive in ensuring our learning environment is continually improving.

Holiday Club

Mr Knight, Mrs Wilmott, Mrs Healey, Mrs Higgs and Mrs Avis did a superb job of running a holiday club during the summer holidays which was very popular. After speaking to Mr Knight and other members of the community it is evident that there is a need for further high quality holiday provision in Tetbury. I have therefore approached Atlas Camps, who run outstanding holiday provision in many local Stroud schools, to take over the holiday club at St. Mary's School. The aim is to have this in place for October and we will send out further details about costs and booking shortly.

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Information evenings for Parents

We will be holding two **information evenings for KS1 and KS2 parents** in the coming weeks. This is an opportunity to come and meet your child's class teacher and to understand a little bit more about what children will be learning about in school, the school routines and expectations for homework. We are not holding an event for parents of Reception children as this was covered in the new parents' evening in the summer.

- **Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) information evening will be on Wednesday 18th September 6pm – 7.15pm**
- **Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – 6) information evening will be on Wednesday 25th September 6pm - 7.15pm**

Both events will start in the school hall and then continue in your child's class.

Mrs J Woolley
Headteacher

Thank You to Coventry Building Society

We would like to say a HUGH THANK YOU to the Coventry Building Society for their donation of £1,898.55.

Each year the Coventry Building Society in Tetbury donates 1% of the total balances held in their Supporters Accounts (School PTA). This year this resulted in a donation to the school of £1,898.55 which we will use to the benefit of the children over this academic year. Please see our web site under 'news' for full details via the following link: <http://www.stmarystetbury.com/about/school-news>

Secondary School Transfer

Year 6

A letter will go out on Monday to all year 6 children regarding the secondary school transfer, please be aware that applications, whether made electronically or on paper, must be made no later than the closing date of **31st October 2019**. This is extremely important as any applications received after this date may not be considered until after 2nd March 2020.

Gloucestershire County Council encourages parents to apply on line, as you will receive a confirmation email.

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Music Tuition 2019/2020 – KS2

An email was sent out to all KS2 parent/carers this week regarding Music Tuition for KS2 children, please see a copy of the information below:

For the 2019/20 academic year we are offering KS2 children peripatetic music lessons for the flute, clarinet, guitar, recorder and the piano. These lessons are taught by external music teachers and the duration and cost of the lessons is detailed below.

Children will be taught a total of 30 lessons over the academic year. These lessons will take place on the same afternoon each week. The lessons approximately follow the school term dates, 10 lessons between September and Christmas, 10 between January and Easter and 10 between May and July.

Payment for the lessons is made the school and you will be invoiced three times a year. Your child will need to provide their own instrument however most instruments are available for hire through Gloucestershire County Council. Hire forms can be collected from the School Office.

At the end of each group of 10 lessons the children will be asked if they want to continue. If they chose not to at this point no further notice is required. If a child decides part way through a series of 10 lessons that they no longer want to continue you will be invoiced for the full 10 lessons within that group.

If your child is off school ill on the day of a music lesson you will still be charged. Where possible the music teacher will try to give them a longer lesson the following week. However, this cannot be guaranteed. If a lesson is cancelled in the event of a class trip taking place on the same day, the teacher will try to fit an extra lesson in during the year. In the unusual event that this is not possible, a credit will be made to you.

Flute/Clarinet Tuition

Mrs Stephens-Hudd will teach flute/clarinet lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. These lessons are available to children in Year 4, 5 and 6. Mrs Stephens-Hudd will teach children in individual, 10 minute, lessons at a cost of £5 per lesson. Therefore, the cost per group of 10 lessons will be £50. If your child doesn't have their own flute/clarinet one can be hired from Gloucestershire County Council at a cost of approximately £28 per term (10 lessons). Please contact the School Office for a hire form.

Recorder Tuition

Mrs Stephens-Hudd will teach recorder lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. These lessons are available to children in Years 3 to 6. Mrs Stephens-Hudd will teach children in individual, 10 minute, lessons at a cost of £5 per lesson. Therefore the cost per group of 10 lessons will be £50. Your child will need their own recorder and a recorder lesson book (which costs around £4.00).

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Guitar Tuition (acoustic/electric)

Mr Hopkins teaches guitar lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. These lessons are available for children in Years 4, 5 and 6. He will advise on what size guitar is best for your child as this will depend upon his or her hand span. If your child doesn't have their own guitar one can be hired from Gloucestershire County Council at a cost of £11.60 per term (10 lessons). Please contact the School Office for a hire form.

Mr Hopkins will teach children in pairs (grouped by their ability) for a 20 minute lesson costing £5 per lesson. If he is not able to pair your child with someone of a similar ability they will receive a 10 minute individual lesson again at a cost of £5 per lesson. Therefore, the cost per group of 10 lessons will be £50.

Piano Tuition

Mr Adkins is the piano teacher and he teaches on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. These lessons are available to children in Years 3 to 6. Your child will need a piano to practice on at home.

Your child can either have an individual 10 minute lesson costing £5 a lesson (£50 per group of 10 lessons) or an individual 20 minute lesson which will cost £10 per lesson (£100 per group of 10 lessons).

Free Instrument Hire

If you are in receipt of either income support, or income based job seekers allowance, or child tax credit where the child tax credit added to your total annual income is below £16,190 you may be entitled to the free use of an instrument. Evidence will be required of this either by confirmation from Shire Hall that your child has been granted free school meals, or a photocopy of the Inland Revenue form which begins TC60--. Please ask at the school office for the relevant forms to apply for free instrument hire.

Unfortunately, Gloucestershire County Council no longer provides bursaries to help towards the cost of lessons.

Music Tuition Lessons 2019 – 2020

My childClass.....Year.....

Please delete as appropriate.

- Had music lessons last year for Guitar, Recorder, Clarinet, Flute, Piano (* please circle appropriate instrument) and would like to continue their lessons next year.
- Would like a taster lesson for the Guitar, Recorder, Clarinet, Flute, Piano (* please circle appropriate instrument)
- If opting for piano lessons please circle the length of lesson you would like your child to have:

Ten minute individual lesson each week costing £5 per lesson

Twenty minute individual lesson each week costing £10 per lesson

Signed(Parent/Carer)

If you require more information or a paper copy please contact the school office.

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Milk

Reception Children whose parents/carers have registered them for Free school milk (under 5's), are receiving milk in class at the moment, it is not an automatic registration. If you would like to take advantage of the free school milk scheme, please register your child at www.CoolMilk.co.uk.

As your 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. For further information please look at the coolmilk website or contact the school office.

Free school meals – apply now

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, our school will receive extra funding if your child is eligible.

The free school meals policy is as follows-

Children might be able to get free school meals if they or their parents get any of the following:

- * Income Support
- * income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- * income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- * support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- * the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- * Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- * Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- * Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents can apply for free school meals via the following link- <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

We receive extra funding for each eligible child registered. So even if you don't want your child to have school lunches, you still need to apply to make sure our school receives all the government funding to which it is entitled – helping us provide your child with the best education and support. If you need any help please contact the school office.



Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
You can secure a tasty free meal for your child and save yourself up to £437 per year.
Plus your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.

Gloucestershire
COUNCIL

Friday 6th September 2019

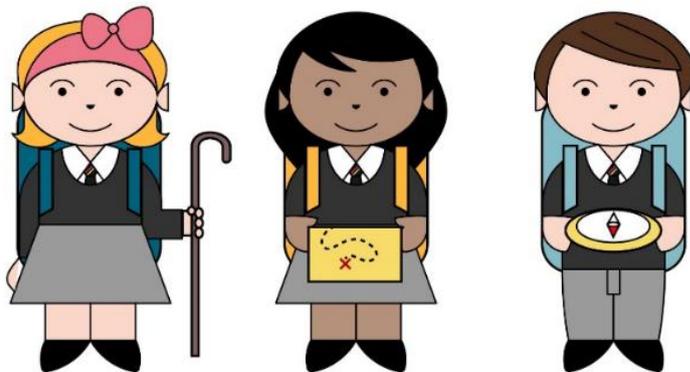
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Club News

Faith Explorers for KS2 Children (limited spaces available)

BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE ON-LINE through the normal parents evening system after 7pm today.



"FAITH EXPLORERS" IS BACK! Sign up for the new year of Faith Explorers' after-school club. Open to all KS2 children, the Club will meet on Wednesdays after school, starting on Wednesday 18th September. This term, we explore the big question "What do we believe?" with stories, crafts and chatting. Please contact Poppy for more details: 01666 502 333 or poppy_hughes@hotmail.co.uk

- **Session 1 Wednesday 18th September:** Introducing Faith Explorers
- **Session 2 Wednesday 25th September:** We get to know the Bible, our guide in all we believe
- **Session 3 Wednesday 2nd October:** Starting at the beginning ... God, creator of the world
- **Session 4 Wednesday 9th October:** Meeting Jesus, son of God
- **Session 5 Wednesday 16th October:** Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit
- **Session 6 Wednesday 23rd October:** Being Church, being God's family

BREAK: No FE - half term 28 October – 3rd November, no FE Wednesday 6th November

- **Session 7 Wednesday 13th November:** Preparing Collective Worship
- **Wednesday 20th November, 2.40pm: FAITH EXPLORERS' COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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Textile Recycler

The bin is located in the carpark by the Yr3/4 playground and all your donations are gratefully received. Please keep filling it up. The items are collected every week, but if you find the bin full when you use it please let us know in the School Office so that we can arrange for it to be emptied.

Please do not leave bags of clothes outside the bin, if they get wet the recycling company will not take them. If the bin is full and the school is open, please drop the bags into the school office.



Thank you for your support at our events last year, and parent helpers who made sure these events can happen, our fundraising has made a big difference to the school. This year we will be holding our usual fundraisers: discos, Christmas and summer fayre, ice cream and cookie Fridays etc, as well as reintroducing the 100 club. Hopefully it will be another good year for supporting the school.

Our AGM is on Wednesday 25th September at the school. We will update with more details soon. Please come along to learn more about the ptfa, how we support and provide for our school, how you can support us and get involved. Don't worry, you don't have to sign up to anything, just come along and have your say.

We are currently updating classlist. If you haven't already, it's worth signing up to the app, it's a great way to receive class communications.

Easyfundraising.com

Don't forget if you are doing any Christmas shopping online, click via Easyfundraising.com. You can support St Marys school without it costing you a penny. Do your online shopping via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarystetbury/> and the retailer pays a percentage of your total without any charge to you. Retailers include Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis, Tesco, Expedia, Waitrose, flybe and many more. Sign up today!



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Community



[You are invited to iSingPop CELEBRATE.](#) iSingPOP CELEBRATE is back on Sunday 15th September, 4.00-5.30pm in St Mary's School Hall. Everyone is welcome – come with children, mums, dads, aunts and uncles, nanny, grampy, friends and neighbours! The theme this month is TRANSFORMATION. In our Bible story we hear about Zacchaeus, who met Jesus and his life was changed forever. We'll be asking questions, big and little; enjoying time together with crafts, chatting, prayers – and of course singing iSingPOP together. We finish with teatime for everybody. We then meet Sunday 20th October and Sunday 24th November. Contact Poppy for more information on 01666 502 333 / poppy_hughes@hotmail.co.uk or just come along and join in. **All children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

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Tetbury RFC

Girls Open Morning

With guest coaches and players



Sunday 13th October 10:30-12

At the Recreation Ground

Email stephenknight82@gmail.com for more info