



St. Mary's Primary School

Website: www.stmarysce.co.uk

Newsletter

Friday 10th September 2010

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new school year! Hopefully you all had a relaxing and interesting holiday. We welcome two new members of staff: Sarah Gibbons who is teaching in Year 5/6, and Dawn Milner who is our new Admin. Assistant manning the front office. We also have a 'new look' Foundation Stage area which has been totally refurbished to allow children to move freely inside and outside the buildings. The practical area in Year 2 has also had a facelift to provide much needed improvements.

School Uniform:

Jerry Hope, the Chair of Governors, has asked for the following to be included in this newsletter:

"Regarding the change to uniform policy, I underestimated the depth of feeling that the decision has provoked. We fully accept that there should have been a full consultation. The transition period (as stated before) is for one year and I truly believe we can come to a workable solution; and to that end, there will be a 'What next for St. Mary's' meeting in early November to which all are welcome. The uniform change will be on the agenda, as well as some of the future plans for the school, about which we would value the parents' viewpoint. I have also been greatly impressed by the energy of parents who care deeply and look forward to harnessing that to continue the improvement of St. Mary's as an all-inclusive primary school." If you have opinions or ideas you wish to share with the Governors, the most effective way is to use email:

govs.stmarys@googlemail.com

Dates for the year:



We have tried to give the dates in good time so that you can plan ahead.

There will be **two extra days** when the children should not attend. They are:

Thursday 5th May 2011 - closed for elections

Thursday 21st July 2011 - extra non-pupil day

Effectively therefore, the

Summer Term ends for

children on Wednesday

20th July.

Parental consultations will be on:

Foundation Stage

Wednesday 10th November 2010

Years 1 & 2 Monday 27th September 2010

Year 3 & 4 Monday 4th October 2010

Year 5 & 6 Thursday 7th October 2010

Foundation Stage Wednesday 9th March 2011

Year 1 & 2 Tuesday 1st March 2011

Year 3 & 4 Monday 14th February 2011

Year 5 & 6 Thursday 17th February 2011

Foundation Stage Wednesday 6th July 2011

Years 1 & 2 Tuesday 28th June 2011

Years 3 & 4 Monday 4th July 2011

Years 5 & 6 Thursday 7th July 2011

Letters will go out before each of these meetings offering you a choice of times during the day.

Please note that the Spring Term consultations involve only teachers and children,

Information sessions for parents will be on:

Foundation Stage Friday 17th September 11.30 am

Years 1 & 2 Tuesday 14th September 3.10 pm

Years 3 & 4 Monday 13th September 3.10 pm

Years 5 & 6 Wednesday 15th September 3.10 pm

All these meetings are for parents to meet the staff and to hear about the curriculum and the expectations we have of your children. Please come along and bring the children too!

Christmas Activities:

KS1 Christmas Production Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th December at 2 pm.

KS2 Christmas Production Tuesday 14th December at 1.45 pm and 7 pm.

As usual, there will be a charge for these

Important DATE!

performances, all the proceeds go to our three charities for the year which are:

Autumn Term 2010 - Children's Hospice SW (Little Bridge House)

Spring Term 2011 - Water Aid

Summer Term 2011 - British Transplant Children's Games



Mark Your Calendar

Church Services:

Whole School: All Saints Service Thursday 21st October 9.00 - 10.00am

KS1 Christingle Service Friday 17th December 9.15am in school

KS2 Christingle Service Friday 17th December 2.00pm. Children dismissed from church.

Non-uniform days:

We hold regular non-uniform days when children are 'fined' £1 for the privilege of not wearing their uniform. The money goes to support the School Fund which buys many of the 'little extras' and most importantly, subsidises all the school trips. This year they will be on:

Thursday 16th December 2010

Friday 8th April 2011

Tuesday 19th July 2011

Sports Days:

Foundation Stage & KS1 Tuesday 21st June 2011 at 1pm

KS2 Thursday 16th June 2011 at 9.30am

Summer Concert:

This is when all the children who sing in the choir or play a musical instrument have the chance to perform, on their own or together, to an appreciative audience. It's a wonderful evening of entertainment and is an excellent reward for all the hard work the children put in during the year. This year, the Summer Concert will be on:

Tuesday 12th July at 7pm.

SATs:

Each year the children in Years 2 and 6 have to be assessed against national standards, known as SATs. This year Year 2 children will be assessed during the period Monday 13th to Friday 24th June 2011.

Year 6 pupils will have their assessments during the week of 9th May 2011.

It is worth remembering that absence for holidays in term time for Yr 2 children will not be granted between January 1st and June 24th, and for Yr 6 children from September 1st to 13th May 2011. Every day in school is important, but especially so in the period leading up to national assessments (SATs).

Car parking:

Torrridge District Council have granted the school a concession to allow parents to park and drop / collect children in the car park opposite school, free of charge from 8.45am to 9.15am and 3.00pm to 3.30pm on days when the school is open. All cars must display the school parking permit (available from the green box in the foyer). Please note that outside these times you will need to pay for parking. Please drive very carefully and considerately when dropping or collecting children. The car park and roads get very busy and we all need to ensure that the children can come and go safely. Why not walk to school while the weather is fine?

Painting shirts:



Last year there were a number of cases where school clothes were spoilt because children didn't cover their uniform when they were using paint or clay. We have therefore decided

that all children will need a painting shirt or apron to wear when they are doing messy activities. We would appreciate it if you could provide your child with something appropriate to wear at these times. If you have any spare shirts we will happily accept them so that we have a stock for children to wear if they do not have their own.

Naming clothes:

All clothes should be named, please. If items of clothing are mislaid by children they will be returned if they are named. If they are not, they will go to Lost Property (in the 1st Aid area) and wait to be claimed. If they are not claimed they will be disposed of. Therefore, PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHES!!

Peanuts:

We have a small number of children who have a peanut allergy. To protect them, we ask that you do not send your children with any peanut products.