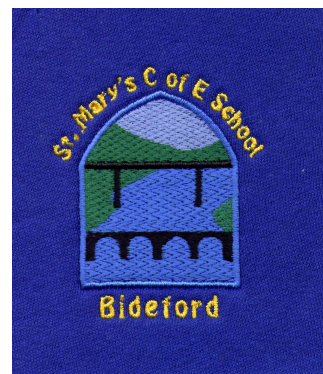


St. Mary's Primary School

Friday 17th July 2009



Pupils:

We have come to the end of another year and it's time to say goodbye to an excellent group of pupils in Year 6. In their progress through the school they have always done well and this year is no exception. Both Reading and Science SATs scores are up on last year, Maths is much the same, only Writing is down. In common with many other Devon schools, the Writing SAT scores were lower than our internal assessments suggested they might be. Year 6 have contributed much to St. Mary's and I hope have enjoyed a successful primary education which sets them up well for secondary school, and gives them many skills and attributes for life.

Staff:

We are also saying goodbye to Mr. Watson, who is moving to West Croft Junior School as an Assistant Headteacher, and to Miss Rees who is undertaking her teacher training at Plymouth University. I would like to thank them both for the contribution they have each made to St. Mary's and wish them both well in their future careers.

Music Year:

Another aspect of this year's success, is that it has been a year during which we have given a priority to Music in all its forms. Children have taken part in music making of all kinds, have enjoyed performances by professional musicians, and they have sung. It is the memory of the whole school and the choir (including the staff choir) singing, which will remain with for a long time. It has been a real pleasure. My thanks go to all the staff for their enthusiasm, but especially to Mr. Scarrett, without whose drive, it would not have half as enjoyable. Next year we look forward to PE and Games being highlighted while I am sure we will continue singing!

Swine Flu:

We now have cases of

swine flu within the school community, which I hope will not gain a foothold during the holidays. When we return in September we will be encouraging children to be much more careful about using tissues and washing hands. We have already started routinely disinfecting the most used parts of the buildings (such as door handles), and we will increase it next term. There is little doubt that Swine Flu will be a real problem this Autumn, therefore, any training you can start at home to do with hand washing and use of tissues, would help us all.

School Website:

The new school website has now 'gone live' and can be found at www.stmarysce.co.uk There is still work to do on parts of it, but the basics are there. You will find the school calendar, lots of photos and information, even this newsletter. It will be updated on a weekly basis from September, so it should always be fresh. Please use it, and if you have any suggestions or comments, please let us know. During next year we will work on access to homework for children, and to assessments for parents.

After School Club:

The club has now been running since mid-June and is operating well. Now is the time to think about child-care arrangements for September. We can provide subsidised care from 3.10–5.40 every or just occasionally according to your need. There are plenty of places available and with the incentives offered it is very good value. Details are available from Reception.

PFSM:

The PFSM have been working hard this term and have raised a wonderful total of over £2,300. The Ladies night raised £198.52, the Cycle Ride £298.80, the Summer Fayre £1251.53 and the Summer disco £615.60. They have pledged £3,000 to our new playground equipment where we need only £6,500 more to reach the £17,000 for a new trim-trail!

We hope you all have a good holiday, and that the sun shines! Autumn Term 2009 starts on Thursday 3rd September.