



St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter (3) - 2022-23

Thursday 20th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first half term here in school seems to have flown by and children all seem to be very well-settled in their new classes. It was lovely to see so many families; parents, grandparents and younger siblings join with us for our Harvest Festival last week. Thank you so much for the donations for the Food Bank and for our church for collecting the food and delivering it to the Food bank on our behalf.

In order to meet government requirements for school opening hours, our school doors open at 8.30am and children should be in school by 8.35am for their morning activities. Registers are taken at 8.45am and gates for our school site will also now be locked at this time. Please support your child in ensuring a good start to the school day by arriving on time for school.

Many parents have been meeting with class teachers this week, I hope that you find this useful. It has been good to celebrate children's strengths and achievements whilst looking at next steps in learning.

Your child should have brought home a piece of Christmas Art Work. Please support our fundraising and our School Association and remember to order your child's Christmas cards and other products by Friday 28th October.

Our School Association AGM will take place on Tuesday 8th November at 7.30pm in the school hall. Please come along to support our school! We are looking for new members to help with fundraising and with planning social events for families and children.

I hope that you all enjoy a break this half term and can enjoy time with family and friends. The teachers will return to work on Monday 31st October and we will look forward to seeing the children return to school on Tuesday 1st November.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Garner



Reading

Thank you for supporting your child with their phonics and reading as we all get used to our new 'Little Wandle' scheme. Questions have been raised by parents about how to get the most out of reading the 'Sharing Book' together. In order to help us support your child we would like you to refer to VIPERS when you listen to your child read at home whether it is their banded book or a sharing book. Reading VIPERS is our way of supporting children with their reading comprehension skills. It is also used by St Osmund's Middle School in Year 5 and 6. All children will be working on VIPERS whether it is Whole Class guided reading, in a small group, or one-to-one with an adult. VIPERS can be used on any text that a child is reading, as well as on pictures, picture books and even films! When any adult is listening to a child read, all they have to do is think of questions about the book/picture/film that cover all of the VIPERS.

We will be sending home a VIPERS sheet (either stuck in your child's reading log book or as a laminated sheet) for you to use when listening to your child read, or when sharing a story. There are some great examples of how you can create your own questions using the various question openers. Please feel free to log any comments or questions asked in your child's reading record/diary.

Poppies

In order to support the Royal British Legion poppies and other merchandise will be available for children to buy in school from Wednesday 2nd November to Friday 11th November between 8.30am and 8.45am in the hall. Suggested donations are from 50p to £3.00 per item. Please send your child in with some money if you wish them to buy a poppy or other items. Change cannot be given.

Remembrance Service

The children and staff will walk down to church on Thursday 10th November where we will share a prayer and our 11 O Clock silence together along with a song in the church yard. Please ensure that your child has a coat.

Science Dome

We still have a significant outstanding amount of contributions for our Science Dome Visit. Please log on to School Gateway to pay this cost of £3.20 per child. We have over £300.00 outstanding and we would be very grateful if everyone could contribute. Thank you to those of you who already have paid for your child(ren). We will be unable to book future trips and visits without parents and carers contributing where they are able.

Future Dates:

20 Oct	Last day of school for children
21 Oct	Staff training day
24-28 Oct	Half Term
31 Oct	Staff Training Day
1 Nov	Children return to school
7 & 8 Nov	Life Education Visit
8 Nov	School Association AGM - 7.30pm
10 Nov	Remembrance Service- church
17 Nov	Class Assembly - Ash - 9.00am
18 Nov	Children in Need



24 Nov	Class Assembly- Maple - 9.00am
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