



# St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 4 - 2021/22

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents

What a happy, sunny half term we have enjoyed here in school. It looks as though the rain is here to stay as we move into our half term break though!

Children have been busy in school preparing poppies to send to the Keep Military Museum in Dorchester. We are taking part in their Poppy project and all children will have a poppy displayed on the outside of the museum to mark the occasion of Remembrance next month. Please look out for them!

Christmas preparations have begun early in school as children have been busy making their Christmas Cards for our School Association Fund Raising Project. Details regarding this are below.

Mrs Laval is beginning to put together representatives from each class for our School Council. We are asking all Year 4 children to consider whether they would have the skills to lead the School Council as our School Ambassadors. A letter is attached to this email explaining this process for Year 4 parents.

As we continue to move forwards as a community during this Covid pandemic our church are keen to help us all come together again. There are opportunities to come together through the church which begin after half term. Please see below for details.

Parent Consultations will now take place during the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November. These will be virtual sessions where we hope that you will sign up to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss how he or she has settled into their new year group.

**Your appointment can be booked using our School Gateway App from 5.00pm today until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.**

You will need to click on your child's name in the Gateway App followed by 'Useful Links' and this will take you to the 'Parent Consultation' section. The dates and times for each class teacher are:

Parents Evenings Teacher Availability for SchoolCloud		Mrs Beale & Mrs Drysdale	Mr Holt	Mrs Joslin	Mrs Brake	Mrs Laval	Miss Thornicroft
Monday	08-Nov-21		4.30-7.00pm	3.30-6.00pm		4-6.00pm	5.00-7pm
Tuesday	09-Nov-21	3.30-5.00pm	3.30-7.00pm	3.30-6.00pm		3.30-5.30	4.00-6.15 pm
Wednesday	10-Nov-21	3.30-5.00pm	3.30-5.00pm	6.00-8.00pm	4.30-8.00pm	5.00-7pm	4.00-7.00pm
Thursday	11-Nov-21	3.30-7.00pm			4.30 - 8.00pm		

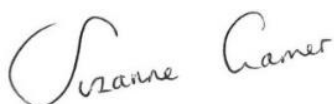


This video in the link below shows you how to log in to book, and later attend, video appointments at our Parent Consultation Evenings. You will also receive an attachment as a parent guide in the form of a PDF document. We hope that this will support you.

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

Thank you for your patience whilst we have overcome our technical issues. I wish you all a happy half term with your friends and family.

Yours sincerely



### Gardening Club

Following the half term break we will be starting a gardening club for Key Stage One children to attend. Places will be limited and booking is via the School Gateway App. Initially places will only be offered to children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2). Our Gardening Club will be led by Vickie Lawford who is our new Children and Families Worker employed by St Mary's Church. Vickie joined us in school for Collective Worship this week to meet the children and staff. Gardening Club will run during November for 4 weeks and there will be 2 sessions each week. **Your child can attend either on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 3pm-4pm. Please only book either the four Wednesdays or the four Thursdays.** Children will need to bring a coat, wellies and gloves if they have their own. Revd. Mark and Revd. Leila will support the first few club sessions as Vickie gets to know the children. We will look forward to seeing the gardening club be revived after a period of absence.

### School Association Christmas Card Fundraising Project

We will be participating in the Christmas Card Project with Art Projects for Schools Ltd (APFS). Your child has created a piece of art that you can later purchase. This year, the range of products includes mugs, wrapping paper, gift tags, a pack of 12 coloured cards or 6 larger, gloss-coated, luxury Christmas Cards. Ultimately, we hope the children will feel a sense of achievement seeing their artwork printed on items to share with family and friends whilst raising funds for our school. To order, simply visit <https://www.apfsorders.co.uk>, and input the unique artwork code - found on the label on the reverse of the artwork - and your child's first name and surname. **Orders must be placed by midnight on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.** Any orders placed after this date will be classed as a late order and will be subject to a postage fee. Re-orders can be placed through the same site using your unique code. **Please note, once you have placed your order, you must return your artwork to school to be submitted to us by 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021** so that we can print your order. If you make a late order (after 29<sup>th</sup> October), please do not send your artwork back to school, you will be contacted directly by the company with instructions on how to upload your artwork.



### **St Mary's Church- NEW School Run Café for parents and carers!**

Come and join Rev'd Leila and Vickie, our new Children and Families Worker, on Thursdays from 8.45-9.45am at the community hall for a chance to relax and unwind over a cuppa and a pastry after dropping off the children. It will be a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to reconnect with other parents and carers after a difficult year of socially-distanced school runs. The café opens after half-term - all are welcome!

This is a non-profit event but cash donations are welcome.

**Tuesdays @ St Mary's** will resume after half term down at the church for the afternoon school run for parents and children from 3-4pm.

### **Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday**

It has been requested by Dorset Council that all schools take a day from the calendar for the year in lieu of the bank holiday in May Half Term. We have agreed with other DASP schools that this will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. This will mean that we will break up on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July for the summer.

### **Future Dates:**

1 Nov	Children return to school
8-11 Nov	Parent/Teacher Consultations
9 Nov	School Association AGM - 7.30pm
11 Nov	Remembrance - church
12 Nov	Children in Need