



St Mary's CE VC First School

Charminster
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Newsletter 1 - 2021/22

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents

It is a pleasure to welcome you all back as we returned yesterday for our new school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. The children and staff have returned looking enthused and full of energy!

We are pleased to welcome new families into our reception year. We hope you all enjoy your time with us. We are also delighted to welcome our new staff members Mr Josh Holt and Mrs Katrina Buckle. Mr Holt is our new Oak Class teacher and Mrs Buckle will work as an additional Teaching Assistant in Ash Class with Year 4.

It was a lovely occasion yesterday to be able to come together as a whole-school in the hall with all children and staff in Years 1 - 4 joining together for Collective Worship. We will look forward to our new Reception children joining in as they settle into school life in the coming weeks. We are aiming to re-build our school community following the separation of groups in bubbles during the past year. The children were excited to play together at playtimes and lunchtimes too.

Our PE Specialist teacher, Andy Kent, will continue to teach PE across the school for one of the PE sessions for this academic year. He will be in school on Mondays and Tuesdays and will work with every class each week. We ask that children come to school in our PE Uniform on the relevant days for their class which are:

Willow	Oak	Beech	Maple	Linden	Ash
Tuesdays	Tuesdays	Mondays	Mondays	Mondays	Mondays
Fridays	Fridays	Fridays	Wednesdays	Wednesdays	Wednesdays

PK Kit should be our Green PE T-Shirt and black bottoms which could be: jogging bottoms, shorts, leggings, tracksuit bottoms or skort. Children may wear our green PE Hoodie with school logo or their usual green school sweatshirt or cardigan. PE Uniform can be ordered from: <http://kitzuk.co.uk/>

We are delighted that work has commenced on the creation of our Reflection and Sensory Garden. Many donations have contributed to the funding for this area and we are looking forward to seeing it develop this half term.



I hope that many of you will be able to join us here on the school field for the Charminster Fun Day on Sunday 12th September from 12noon. A joint committee from Pre-School and School have worked hard planning and organising for this event. It promises to be a fun event to start the school year!

I will keep you informed of all school events through a regular newsletter about once a month. They will be numbered so you will know if you have missed one!

As this is the first newsletter of the term there now follows more information.

Yours sincerely



Government Operational Guidance for Schools

The government has revised guidance for schools as we begin our autumn term. Our focus for September in order to continue to minimise and reduce risks will be to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Guidance for schools regarding face coverings is:

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

Asymptomatic Testing

Staff continue to test as our schools' guidance reinforces that testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Staff undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on our school site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the government.

Fruit Snack

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will receive a free daily fruit snack under the national government scheme. Please send a daily fruit snack in with your child if they are in Years 3 and 4.



Children's Data

If you have any changes to the current data we hold on your child please notify the school office as soon as possible. These changes may include a change of mobile phone number, email or address.

School Bus

Please can I ask that you keep us informed of your child's travel arrangements so that we can ensure the smooth running of the bus departure from school at the end of each day? Each morning, 2 members of staff collect the children from the bus and at the end of the day 2 members of staff register the children and ensure they are safely on the bus.

Term Dates for 2021-22:

2021	
Wednesday 1 st September	Staff Training
Thursday 2 nd September	First Day for all children in Years 1-4
Thursday 21 st October	Staff Training
Friday 22 nd October	Staff Training
Wednesday 20 th - Friday 29 th October	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 17 th December	Break-Up for Christmas
Monday 20 th -Friday 31 st December	CHRISTMAS BREAK
2022	
Monday 3 rd January	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 4 th January	Children return to school
Monday 21 st -Friday 25 th February	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 28 th February	Staff Training
Friday 8 th April	Staff Training
Monday 11 th - 22 nd April	EASTER BREAK
Monday 30 th May - Friday 3 rd June	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of summer term