



St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 1 - 2022/23

9th September 2022

Dear Parents

On this sad day for our nation we have gathered together as a school community for our Collective Worship to remember our Queen. We shared our memories of Queen Elizabeth II and remembered her life through photographs and music. The children have many happy memories of our recent Jubilee celebrations both locally and nationally, as such they know lots about Queen Elizabeth and her life of service to our country and the commonwealth.

It has been pleasure to welcome you all back as we are settling into our new school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break, although this seems a distant memory now! The children and staff have returned 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 pleased to welcome Mr Liam Stork as our new PE coach to lead PE sessions for all classes to ensure continuation of our specialist sports provision. Mr Stork will lead PE lessons alongside our school staff on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

I would like to offer congratulations to Josh Holt on his engagement to his girlfriend, Molly, during the summer holidays. Congratulations to Josh and Molly!

We have had some maintenance and refurbishment work carried out to the exterior of the school building. In addition, Tony Draper, our handyman, has been decorating the corridor areas. We have used funding from our school budget alongside fundraising money from our School Association and our Family Fun Day to purchase new, interactive screens for each classroom and a new class set of laptops for the children to use. Thank you to all involved in the fundraising efforts as this equipment is already being well-used around the school.

As we begin our new school year please ensure that your child is in school between 8.30 and 8.35am. Registers will be taken at 8.45am. This ensures that all children are ready to begin their learning promptly.

I will keep you informed of all school events through a regular newsletter every few weeks. They will be numbered so you will know if you have missed one! Additionally the calendar shows events for the school year 2022-23. We hope you find this useful. A paper copy of our annual calendar will be sent home during the next week for you to refer to throughout the year! Relevant calendar dates appear on every newsletter too.

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

Yours sincerely



School Office

For those of you new to our school, our school office is open from 8.30am where Bev Hayes and Jane Dixon are happy to help with queries and questions. Please feel free to call into the office once you have dropped off your child if you need to see Bev or Jane.

Reading and Phonics

We are excited to become a partner school with the DfE English Hub based near Exeter. We have reviewed our Phonic scheme and approach to early reading and, as a result, have begun using a new scheme for our delivery of Phonics and Guided Reading across Reception and Key Stage 1. All staff have spent time completing the training during our training days at the beginning of this term. As a result, we will not be sending home reading books in the same way as before. More information will follow shortly!

School Assemblies

As in previous years we will be offering you the opportunity to attend your child's class assembly. Each class will do two over the year. The class assembly dates for each term are set out on the calendar to ensure that you have plenty of notice for these special events. We hope that you will be able to join us!

Space Dome

The Space Dome will be set up in our school hall on Thursday 15th September. All children will have the opportunity alongside other children in their year group to visit, go inside and find out more about space! This is the beginning of our whole-school 'Space' theme! **There will be a voluntary contribution of £3.30 per child. Please pay this through our School Gateway.** There will be no hot lunches on this day. Please could you send your child in with a packed lunch,

Class Termly Letter with Termly Voluntary Contribution Request

Your child's class teacher will shortly be informing you by letter of their classroom arrangements and topics for the term. The teachers are always available if you have any matters you wish to discuss. This is best done with them after school. If it is urgent could it please be done during arrival time, and not once school has started. In order to support families in financial planning we request voluntary contributions on a termly basis (i.e. 3 times each year) to avoid the possible situation of having several requests each term for such events as school trips and theatre performances. We hope that you will feel able to support us by paying your request through our school Gateway. The request for this voluntary contribution will be in the class termly letter and we thank you in anticipation of this support. Please remember we prefer payments to be made via the School Gateway wherever possible.

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.

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.



Reception Open-Mornings – September 2023 Intake

I am always pleased to meet with new families and would like to offer parents the opportunity to attend one of our open-mornings this term. These mornings are intended for parents to come along and meet with me, have a tour around the school and join in with our Songs and Praise Collective Worship. If you know someone with a child due to start school in September 2023 please let them know about these dates. They should phone into the school office to let us know they are coming along. The dates are:

- Wednesday 19th October 2022 - 9.30-11.00am
- Wednesday 2nd November 2022 - 9.30-11.00am
- Wednesday 16th November 2022-9.30-11.00am

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We aim to provide a range of extra-curricular clubs for your children to participate in. Teacher-led clubs will begin during the week commencing 19th September. However, we will be offering a Football Club to our Key Stage 2 children on Wednesdays from 3pm-4.15pm through Footie4Dorset. Children will bring home letters next week. In addition, our new PE coach, Mr Stork will be offering a Multisport Club on Tuesdays from 3pm-4pm for Years 3 and 4. This can be booked via their website.

<https://eolasplus.co.uk/category/after-school-clubs>

There are small costs for both of these clubs.

Free school meals/ Pupil Premium- Dorset Council Advice

There's a lot to think about with the new school term! If you receive certain benefits, your child could be eligible for free school meals. Use our easy checker to find out and you could save up to £450 a year.

Their school could get extra funding too (up to £1,385 per year) with the Pupil Premium. This is paid automatically if a child aged 7-plus receives free school meals, but if your child is under 7 and you receive certain benefits, Pupil Premium is not automatically paid so you will need to apply for it. Go to our free school meals checker or find out more about the Pupil Premium

<https://dorsetcouncil.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c39535cf4f9d1ca66af8d2b44&id=2f153404ee&e=e4b89e58fa>

Public Health Dorset Advice for 'Back to school'

Here are some ways you can support your child going back to school:

- Having a routine and structure can help reduce feelings of uncertainty and anxiety.
- Sticking to a good sleeping pattern is important, it can help your child's body stay fit and healthy.
- Eating healthy balanced meals will provide your child's body with the nutrients, vitamins, and energy it needs.
- Being active can improve your child's mood and making it a part of their routine will do wonders for their wellbeing.
- Spending time doing the activities they enjoy is vital for their mental health and wellbeing.

