



St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 7 -2017/18

2nd February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It really has been a month of illness since we returned to school last month. We are hoping for a healthier school as we move towards the spring!

Sonia Newman, Oak Class Teaching Assistant, has been absent from school so far this year due to ill health and we hope that she will be able to return following our half term break. We have been fortunate that other Teaching Assistants in school have been able to provide some support for Oak Class in her absence.

We will all be sad to say farewell to Mike Williams, Rowan Class Teaching Assistant, next week. Mike has been a real asset to our school, but we wish him well as he moves into a new job working as a Fitness Instructor in Yeovil. We are currently advertising for his replacement and will keep you informed with developments.

I am pleased to inform you that our new School Crossing Patrol staff member is Tanya Christopher. Tanya will begin work on Monday 5th February. I am sure that you and the children will make her feel welcome as she settles into her new role. Graham, our previous School Crossing Patrol staff member, handed in his resignation during the Christmas period due to ill health. We would like to thank Graham for his hard work and dedication to our families during the past few years and wish him well in the future.

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Helen Pegram on Mondays for the rest of the school year beginning on Monday 19th February. Helen works to support our Year 4 children as they prepare for the transition to St. Osmund's Middle School in September. She transfers with them at the end of the school year and will be a familiar member of staff for children and parents for the autumn term at St. Osmund's.

There now follows further information.

I hope that you all enjoy the half term break when it arrives and that the weather is kind to us.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Garner



Individual Photographs

A reminder that all children will be photographed individually and with their siblings on **Monday 5th February**. These will be available for purchase and can be ordered from the pack, which will be sent home. There is no obligation to buy these.

Lunchtime Staff

We are always looking for new recruits to join our lunchtime team for the purposes of covering staff sickness. Please get in touch with Jane Dixon or myself if you feel that you would be interested in this role.

Ofsted Parent View

Many of you will remember the online questionnaire that Ofsted made use of during their inspection last year. It would be useful if you could complete an online questionnaire this term so that our results are up-to-date. It is a straightforward process that should not take too long to complete. We urge as many parents as possible to participate please, in order to gain an accurate overall picture of how you feel about our school. While we will use this information for school improvement, we will continue to ask you for additional detail during our annual school survey in the summer term.

The link to the website is here. You will be asked to provide an email address, but only OFSTED will have access to it and will not use it to contact you. If you use 'St Mary's Charminster' as the school name and 'DT29RD' as the address it will help identify our school from all the St Mary's across the country!

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Writing Competitions

We would like to encourage all children to have a go at an entering the national writing competition from Radio 2 - 500 words (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>).

If your child would like to enter this national competition we would like he/she to submit another copy of his/her story to school by Thursday 21st February so that we can choose a school winner to put forward into the DASP competition. In addition, children from Year 2 upwards will be bringing home details of a DASP 'Comic Strip' competition over half term. Each school will submit a school winner to go forwards to the DASP final in March. The prizes in both DASP competitions will be HD tablets! Happy writing!

Maths Café and Show and Tell Sessions

Following an analysis of the parent survey from last year we have seen the need to dedicate more time to supporting you as parents in the teaching of mathematics. Stuart Galloway, our Maths Subject Leader, has organised a parent session for you to come along to in order to further your understanding of approaches to maths teaching in school. Our 'Maths Café' will take place on Tuesday 13th March from 3pm. You are invited to come along for a cup of tea to find out about maths with a focus on addition and subtraction. It will be a practical session with all class teachers involved and on hand to talk with. As a follow-up to this, all teachers will offer a 'Show and Tell' session when you will be welcome to participate in the maths lesson in your child's class. This will be on Tuesday 20th March between 9.00am and 10.00am. Please put these dates in your diaries and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Future Dates

2 Feb	School Association - School Disco - 3.30pm-5pm - Reception, Year 1 and 2 5.30pm-7pm - Years 3 and 4
5 Feb	Ashley Wood Studios - Individual Photos
6 Feb	Safer Internet Day
6 Feb	Year 4 Trip to the Nothe Fort, Weymouth
8 Feb	Jigsaw Feedback - Rowan - all parents welcome!
8 Feb	School Association Cake Sale (after school)
9 Feb	Inset Day - school closed -no school for children
11 Feb	Messy Church - St Mary's Church, Charminster - 4pm - all families welcome!
12 th -16 th Feb	HALF TERM BREAK
19 Feb	Children return to School
22 Feb	School Association Meeting - 7.30pm - in school - all parents welcome!
23 Feb	Jigsaw Assembly 9.00am
1 Mar	World Book Day - School Association Second-Hand Book Sale - 3.15pm
1 Mar	Class Assembly - Ash 9.00am
6 Mar	Full Governing Body Meeting (7)
7 Mar	Year 4 DASP Concert -
8 Mar	Class Assembly - Maple 9.00am
6/7/8 Mar	Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30 - 6.00pm
13 Mar	Year 2 Visit to Streetwise
13 Mar	Maths Café - 3.15pm - school hall - all families welcome!
15 Mar	Class Assembly - Willow 9.00am
19 Mar	Year 4 Easter Experience - St Mary's Church
20 Mar	Maths 'Show and Tell' lessons - all parents welcome!
22 Mar	Jigsaw Assembly - Maple 9.00am
23 Mar	Sport Relief
27 Mar	Hooke Court Parents' Evening -6pm-School Hall
28 Mar	Easter Service 9.00am -School Hall
	Easter Service 2.00pm -School Hall
29 Mar	Last Day of Term