



# St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 12 - 2020/21

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely 4 weeks returning to routines and learning together in school. We have made the most of the lovely spring weather and have enjoyed lots of activities outside around our school grounds. We will continue our systems to reduce risks into the summer term in order to promote safety for all in our school community. All school staff engaged in the testing programme will continue testing during the Easter break as requested by the DfE. The majority of staff have now received their first vaccination too, as have many in our community, which is a really positive step forwards.

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Suzanne Quinn, who has taught in Beech Class since 4<sup>th</sup> January to cover for Mrs Laval's period of shielding. Suzanne has really given so much to the children and families and we hope that she will return when we require supply cover in the future! We are looking forward to welcoming Mel Laval back to Beech Class after the Easter Break. Mel will spend time in class tomorrow before returning on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

During this year of restrictions and lockdowns our Governing Body members have worked hard behind the scenes to support and develop the work of our school. This term we are saying farewell to Keith Bashford who has been a governor supporting our school for the past 4 years. Keith has supported staff and children in EYFS and in his vital role on our Finance Committee and as a lead for Health and Safety. On behalf of staff, families and governors I would like to thank Keith for his care and dedication to our school.

As a result of Keith's departure, our Governing Body are looking to recruit a new member with a knowledge of finance, buildings and/or health and safety. This position is for a Local Authority (LA) Governor. If you are interested in this position and would like to find out more please contact the school office to arrange to speak with Lyn Paine, our Chair of Governors, regarding this valuable role.

Thank you for all of the donations made for 'Comic Relief' a few weeks ago, we raised £148.00 as a school community. We all enjoyed hearing the jokes and it was lovely to hear the children sharing their jokes with each other.

I hope that the weather during our Easter break is kind to us and enables us to meet with family and friends outdoors within this new period of restrictions. I hope that you all enjoy a peaceful and happy Easter and we will look forward to seeing the children return refreshed for the summer term on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Garner



## School Association Update

The School Association's 'Arctic Challenge' will be at an end this Friday. Thank you to all children and families who have taken part and been counting miles walked since February half term. Families and friends have been busy sponsoring children for their efforts and currently the total raised is: £526.00 towards a new class set of chairs. Please email the School Association and let them know your child's total mileage if you haven't already: [stmaryssandt2@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryssandt2@gmail.com)

The link for sponsorship is below:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-all-walk-to-the-arctic-together-we-can-do-it?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-all-walk-to-the-arctic-together-we-can-do-it?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)

## Musicianship Programme

Every year we subscribe to the 'Musicianship' programme implemented by the Dorset Music Service. This programme enables all Year 4 pupils to learn an instrument for a term. Unfortunately, the programme was unable to run last year but will be starting this summer term. All Year 4 pupils will receive 10 lessons within their class group learning to play the guitar. These lessons will take place on Friday afternoons starting from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April. We hope that the children will enjoy this opportunity!

## The Big Pedal

Mrs Joslin and our Eco Committee would like to promote 'The Big pedal' amongst our school community next term. It runs from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April and is coordinated by Sustrans. As part of this event we will be running a 'St George's Day - Bling your Bike' on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April with bike and scooter parades around the playground! Please get involved if you can and we will hope for good, fine cycling weather!

## Lunchtimes

The return of our hot lunches has been a real success and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying the range of food on offer. However, many more staff are needed at lunchtimes to enable the children to remain in their 3 Bubble groups. We are looking for a temporary member of staff for the summer term to cover the lunch period. If you are interested please contact the school office to speak with us about this role.

## Covid-19

**Please keep us updated throughout the Easter break of any positive cases of Coronavirus for your child or household.** The office email is checked daily: [office@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Future Dates:

2 <sup>nd</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	EASTER HOLIDAYS
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term Begins
19 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> April Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	The Big Pedal 'Bling your Bike/Scooter'
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Musicianship Programme - Year 4 Guitar lessons (every Friday until Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July)
31 <sup>st</sup> May- 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	HALF TERM
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break-up for Summer Holidays

