



St. Mary's News

9th September 2016



Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new academic school year. I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to be Headteacher of this wonderful school and I am looking forward to the year ahead. I have been a teacher here for many years (too many to count!) and my love for the children and community of St Mary's ensures that all I do is driven by my desire to provide the children with the best learning experiences possible in a stimulating, loving and safe environment, where everyone's successes - no matter how big or small - are celebrated. My door is always open if you have any concerns regarding your child/ren, so please don't hesitate to come in to see me.

We have a very exciting year ahead with lots of lovely activities e.g. Roald Dahl week; arts and music week; a Christmas pantomime to name but a few, so keep your weekly newsletter handy as it will inform you of what is coming up.



A Big St Mary's Welcome



As we begin this new school year we have many big 'WELCOMES' to say.

Welcome to the new members of our teaching staff - Miss Davies and Mr Twist who will be teaching in KS2. They too are looking forward to the year ahead and to getting to know our children. I am sure that you will wish them well and support them in their role.

Welcome to our new Reception children. They have started their school journey this week and have appeared happy and settled coming in. We welcome them and their families into our school family.

We also welcome Roman and Elizabeth - two new children and their families who have joined our Year 1 and Year 2 classes. The children have made them feel very welcome. We are certain that they will settle in quickly and it will soon feel like they have always been here.



Class Dojo

We are introducing a new reward system to run alongside the existing house point system. Class Dojo's are merit marks that the children can collect throughout the school day. These merit marks will be awarded to the children whose behaviour reflects our school values e.g. showing kindness; forgiving and forgetting. Every class has set a termly target of Dojo's for the children to collect. If they hit the target the class will be given a reward afternoon (of their choosing) at the end of every term



Tea @ 2 with Mrs Hymers

Starting next week, Mrs Hymers will be inviting 7 children (1 from each year group) to join her in her office for afternoon tea, on a Friday afternoon at 2pm, as a reward for their hard work that week. The children will have the opportunity to share their work with Mrs Hymers and to talk about school life. She will listen to what they like and dislike about school life and then she will use the children's thoughts as a starting point for improving the school further. The children are very excited about tea @ 2 and are looking forward to receiving their invitations.



Summer Big Friendly Read

The summer reading challenge run by St Helens Libraries is coming to an end. Children who would like to receive a medal and certificate from the Mayor of St Helens must finish reading their six books (collecting items along the way) by Saturday 10th September.



Mrs Waring

As you all know Mrs Waring will be spending the next academic year working between KS1 and KS2. In her new role as Interventions Manager, she will work with small groups of children to deliver catch up sessions for those children who are not currently working at age related standards in reading, writing and maths or extension sessions for children who, with a little support, could be working above age related standards. Mrs Waring is very excited about her new role and we are certain that the children will benefit immensely from having small group tuition on a weekly basis.



Holiday Club

Our summer holiday club was very successful with over twenty children attending on some days. I know that on the several occasions that I popped into school, great fun was being had by all. We will be shortly sending out an information leaflet about October's holiday club.



Parents English Workshops

Our very popular workshops will run again week commencing 19th September. The focus this year will be on reading and for those children in Years 2 & 6 some information about tests in May 2017. The dates/times are as follows:

Year 6 - 9.00am Monday 19th September

Year 3 - 9.00am Tuesday 20th September

Year 5 - 2.45pm Tuesday 20th September

Year 2 - 2.45pm Tuesday 20th September

Year 4 - 9.00am Thursday 22nd September

Reception - 2.45pm Thursday 22nd September

Year 1 - 9.00am Friday 23rd September

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents could you please bring one or two of your child's favourite books to the workshop.

As part of our continuing commitment to developing our children's love of reading we would like to create two new reading displays one in each of the halls. Could you please take a photograph of your children reading their favourite book in their favourite or most unusual place. If they bring these photos into school we can then add them to the displays. Year 2 have already been asked as part of their transition work from Year 1.

Roald Dahl 100th Birthday Celebrations

The whole school will be taking part in a fun day of activities to commemorate this special occasion on Tuesday 13th September. This will be followed by a special assembly on Friday 16th September where the children are invited to come into school wearing something yellow (Roald Dahl's favourite colour) or come dressed up as their favourite Roald Dahl character. If the children want to bring £1 we will send this to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.



Payments Due This Term

Please make sure that all your payments for this term are up to date.

Dinner money for the term £74.25 (£11.25 per week)

Fish and chip Friday £15.75

Reception snacks for the term £9.90

Toast for the term Y3-Y6 £6.60

Football with Mr McMinn £24

Milk Rec/Y1/Y2 £6.00

Guitar lessons with Mrs Connolly £18

Football Training

Football training with Mr McMinn will start again next week. Monday KS2 children 3.45 - 4.45pm (outdoors weather permitting.) Thursday lunchtime Year 1 & Year 2 children (indoors). Payment of £24 is due next week. Please let the office know if your child will be taking part.

