

St. Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School

Devon County Council, Children and Young People's Services

Headteacher: **Adrian Scarrett BEd (Hons)**

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Friday, 08 September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a good summer and managed to get some time where you could relax with your families and enjoy some of the better weather that we had

Welcome

I would like to say a big welcome to all new members of our community: children in foundation stage and other year groups; their parents and families; members of staff. As I informed you last term we have three additions to our staff team this year: Miss Abbie Brailey, who is teaching in Year 3; Miss Emily Brend, who is teaching Year 5; and Mr Billy Buckingham who is a trainee teacher working through the Atlantic Coast Co-operative Trust School Direct Programme and we be working in Year 4 Wrens throughout the majority of this year.

Developments since last year

Over the summer we have been fortunate enough to have a cover built over the Year 1 outside learning area. This was made possible due to funding that we received from three of our local councillors (Andrew Eastman and Tony Inch, from Devon County Council and Jonny Langton-Loxton from Torrridge).

Healthy Lunch

Our healthy packed lunch policy begins this week. If you need guidance on the recommendations with this then the letter that I sent at the end of last term can be found in the school office or on the school website. It is our aim to support our children in beginning a healthy lifestyle which will support their physical and mental development. Please remember that besides the 4 meal options that our catering team provide each day, children in Foundation Stage and Year 1/2 are entitled to a free meal which could be our packed lunch option (unfortunately, due to demand, this is not available for children in Key Stage Two).

Parking

Torrige District Council (TDC) has again, kindly, agreed to provide us with a **concession for parking at the beginning and end of each day. Please note that the concession only exists on the times printed on the tickets that we provide and that you will need to display this in your windscreen to avoid being issued with a Penalty Notice.** Please also note that this concession is for the car park opposite the school, the cattle market and the car park next to the Children's Centre at the other side of the rugby club. If you could utilise all of these, depending on where you are coming from it may alleviate congestion immediately outside the school. Please also note that TDC reserve the right to withdraw the concession at any time, should they feel that people are not acting within the parameters of the agreement. On the theme of cars outside school, **I would like to remind everyone that parking on the zigzag lines outside the school is not acceptable, even to just drop off a child. These are there to ensure the safety of all children and need to be kept clear of stationary vehicles at all times.** Also, if you could avoid parking on the double yellow lines around the school (unless you are a blue badge holder) then that will assist the safeguarding of all children. We now over 400 children at the school so congestion is almost inevitable. It would be advisable if you could park a little further away and walk to the school wherever possible (this may result in a quicker exit from the school vicinity).

SchoolMoney Payment system

Our SchoolMoney system is running for payments. This can be used to pay for school dinners, trips and various other items. We will also be using this system to allow you to book extra-curricular clubs (as always there will be no charge for this. Information on how to make these bookings, along with a password reminder, will follow in the next week or so.

Uniform

It was excellent to see the children in looking so smart in their uniform yesterday. Gold T-Shirts, school jumpers, black or grey school trousers (not jogging bottoms or leggings) or skirts, with predominantly black shoes is our expectation. We would also

A partner school in the



expected hair colour to be of a 'natural' shade. I am aware that there has been a craze for the colouring of hair over the summer and there may be some issues with getting hair colour back to natural in the first instance but moving forward this should be the aim.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

With the school increasing in size (we are now only 5 children away from our capacity) we have redefined some of the roles and would like to inform you of leaders' responsibilities and who you should contact if you have concerns about your child's learning.

Mr Scarrett
Head Teacher

There are two Assistant Head teachers who have clear, overarching responsibilities.

Miss Frost	Mrs O'Dell
Assistant Head Teacher Teaching and Learning	Assistant Head Teacher Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

The Leadership comprises myself and Assistant Head teachers along with our class based Team Leaders.

Mrs Malcolm	Miss Jackson	Miss Whitehouse
Foundation Stage	Year 1 & 2	Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)

For all enquiries about your child's learning and development in class the best person to speak to is your child's class teacher. They will know your child better than anyone. If any issue cannot be resolved through discussion with the class teacher then you should refer the issue to the team leader responsible for their year group. Subsequently the issue could be escalated to the Assistant Head Teachers or me. I hope that this makes the structure clear and will, hopefully, make the resolution of any issues which arise clearer and easier to arrange.

Contact Details

Please ensure that all contact details are kept up to date with the school office. If you move house, change your mobile phone or create a new email address it may not be the first thing on your mind to inform the school but it is vital to us if we need to contact you. Can you please, also ensure that this is the case for your alternative contacts.

SIMS Parent App

This is an application which we trialled last term and are now ready to roll out to all parents. When installed on your device it allows you to access certain information from the school about your child. This includes term dates, contact information held by the school and attendance data. Your contact details can be updated through the app and then changed on our system by our admin team. In the future this app will also alert you to behaviour rewards and sanctions (These will still be communicated to you verbally). A beginner's guide of how to install and use this app will be sent home via email next week.

School Photographs

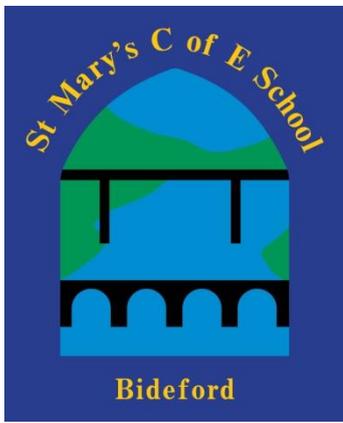
Tempest Photography will be in school on Wednesday 20th September from 9am, to take class photographs of all children.

Parents and Friends of St Mary's

The Parents and Friends of St Mary's is a group of parents and staff who organise social events for the children and families in the school. These often go towards raising money which can be used to improve the experience in school for all children. Recent purchases that have been made using money raised through their efforts include the adventure play area at the front of the school, lighting and sound system in the hall and PE running vests which children can wear over their white T-Shirt when attending sporting events away from school. Events that they organise include end of term discos, Christmas and Summer Fayres, Bingo Nights, Big Sheep nights etc. It would be great to have more parents supporting the work of this association. The first meeting of the year will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday 21st September, at the school. Please speak to me if you would like to attend this meeting or just come to the main school entrance on the evening of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Scarrett



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18th July 2016

Good Food Makes Sense

Did you know that the UK has the highest rate of obesity in Europe with 1 in 3 children overweight or obese by year 6?

Obesity in children under 11 has risen by over 40% in 10 years.

If this trend continues half of the children will be obese or overweight by 2020.

A poor diet can have significant effects on children's behaviour, concentration and mood. Children with diets lacking in essential vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids tend to perform worse academically, cannot concentrate and are more aggressive.

These facts do not make easy reading and it is easy to bury your head in the sand and not accept responsibility but we must ensure the children at St Mary's have the very best start at school and this includes their health. Therefore, we have decided, like many other schools, to introduce a **School Lunch Box Policy**.

From September 2016 we will be promoting a balanced and healthy diet during the school day. The catering team adhere to guidance about the balance of food groups that they provide each day. To ensure that children are receiving the same nutritional value from their packed lunches we will no longer be allowing sugary drinks, sweets or chocolate covered confectionary in lunch boxes and children will only be permitted one 'dessert' item (e.g. a cake or biscuit).

This will be monitored by our Meal-time Assistants and members of Senior Leadership; we appreciate your support in this matter.

To help you understand the new policy, please see the guidance attached.

Kind regards

Senior Leadership & Catering Teams

The eatwell plate



Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.



Guidance

We recommend that packed lunches should include:

- at least one portion of fruit and/or vegetables every day
- meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. egg, lentils, beans, soya or hummus) every day
- oily fish, such as salmon or tuna occasionally
- a starchy food such bread, pasta, rice, noodles, potatoes or other type of cereals every day
- dairy food such as cheese, yoghurt or fromage frais
- a drink – such as water, milk, squash or pure fruit juice

Packed lunches could include these foods but only as part of a balanced meal:

- cake/muffin
- biscuit
- cereal bar/ rice cake
- crisps

Packed lunches should not include:

- chocolate covered confectionery and sweets
- nuts or nut products (although they can be healthy) because of the danger to other children with allergies
- all drinks that are artificially sweetened or carbonated eg fruit shoots, flavoured water or fizzy drinks (with the exception of squash)

Special Diets /Allergies

The school recognises that some pupils may have verified medical conditions requiring special diets or cultural/religious beliefs which may impact on diet. These may not allow for the standards to be met exactly. In this case parents/carers are urged to be responsible in ensuring that packed lunches are as healthy as possible. Please ensure that the office and your child's class teacher are notified regarding any special dietary needs or allergies.

NOTE For these reasons pupils are:

- not permitted to swap food items.
- not permitted to bring nuts and nut products into school.

For more information and packed lunch ideas please go to the following websites:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>



A Good Diet Makes Sense at St Mary's