



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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Monday, 14 May 2018

Dear Parents,

Term time Holiday

It has become apparent that many people are booking holidays during term time. Whilst this is sometimes unavoidable it is not advisable and the impact could be significant to your child. The table below outlines the percentages and the impact of absence. The Government minimum expectation for all children is 95% attendance. **Once your child falls below this then the impact can make a real difference to the progress that they make and, potentially to their life chances.** If you go on holiday for two weeks then your child will not be able to make 95% attendance. Should they then, almost inevitably, have days of illness then their attendance will continue to drop. Please consider this when making a decision about taking children out of school.

Each Saturday you can receive an update on your child's annual attendance through the SIMS Parent App. This is free to download and we will email instructions of how to access this early next week.

99% - 100% Wow!	GOLD
97% - 98% Fantastic! Keep it up!	SILVER
95% - 96% Well Done!	BRONZE
93% - 94% Your child's attendance has started to fall below average.	GREEN
90% - 92% Your child is missing some important lessons. She/he is missing nearly half a day a week.	BLUE
85% - 89% Your child is missing too much school. She/he may be lacking in confidence in school and struggling in lessons.	PURPLE
85% and below Your child will have almost certainly fallen behind. If he/she hasn't just think what could be achieved if almost one day a week had not been missed!	RED

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Royal Wedding Celebration

On Friday 18th May we are going to engage the children in some celebrations to highlight the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle which is taking place on Saturday. The day will involve:

- Children wearing smart clothes to school, as if going to attend a wedding **OR clothing in Red, White and/or blue.**
- A cake sale, maybe with a royal/patriotic theme – we would ask you to kindly make a donation to support this and bring the cakes in on Friday morning.
- Weather permitting we will have lunch in a ‘street party’ style, with the tables put outside and patriotic decorations. We will also have music played during the lunch – to quote Amelia-Lilly in Year 1, ‘to make it a super celebration!’
- We will also be having an additional assembly to learn about Royal Weddings and some of the Pomp and Circumstance to look out for if they watch any of the event on Saturday.

All Stars Cricket

The English and Welsh Cricket board (ECB) has continued with its All Stars programme this year and Russ Young from North Devon Cricket Club visited us to lead taster sessions for our Year 1, 2 & 3 children. There are two places children can attend if you would like them to have a go at playing cricket.

- Mondays from 6 -7p.m. at North Devon Cricket Club, Instow
- Tuesdays from 5 – 6 p.m at Bideford Cricket Club, Westward Ho!

If you visit the ECB website you can see these options and register your child.

If your child falls outside of the All Stars age group but would like to play cricket then they could attend the Colts sessions at North Devon (Instow) on Monday from 6 -7:30 p.m. or at Bideford (Westward Ho!) on Fridays from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Scarrett
Headteacher

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