



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

Devon County Council, Children and Young People's Services

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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year already. It has been a busy time for us with lots going on for the children.

## ESafety

I am aware that children of varying ages are accessing different forms of social media. Whilst we take time in our curriculum to teach children about how to keep safe online it is obvious from a quick trawl of these sites that some of your children are not acting on the advice that we give them. Some important things that you should ensure that your children are doing when using any social media include: Not using their name in the username; not referring to themselves in an identifiable way (e.g. full name, address, school – including wearing school uniform when streaming or uploading video); ensuring that privacy settings are set to a level where they can be accessed by approved people ('friends') only.

If you would be interested in some support/training with regard to e-safety then please inform the school office and we will organise a session to support you.

## Cultures Day

On the first day back after the break we will be having a Cultures Day. This is a way of celebrating different cultures from around the world and the children will be mixed with children from different adjacent year groups. The children will rotate around 3 classes and spend an hour in each undertaking activities related to the different cultures, led by one of the teaching team. **The catering team have changed the menu for this day and the meal will be a 'Cowboy Lunch'** which will comprise a Hot Dog, Cowboy Beans, Ranch Style Potatoes for main, Rocky Road and Cowboy Juice (milkshake) for dessert.

## Spare Clothes Required

We like to keep spare clothes in school in case children have 'accidents' during the school day. Our Year 1 team are looking for clothes suitable for 5-7 year olds that they can keep for such eventualities. They are looking for socks, tights, underwear and trousers. If you have any clean, spare items please deliver them to the school office or the Year 1 team.

## Incredible Years Parenting Course

The dates for the Incredible Years Course have now been confirmed and will be on Thursdays from March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m. here at the school. The course lasts for 14 weeks (excluding school holidays) and there are still places available if anyone is interested in attending. Please contact the school office if you would be interested.

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## World Book Day

**World Book Day is on Thursday 1st March** and to celebrate this event children are invited to dress as book characters, with children who win the Most Creative Dress Competition from each class being chosen in a morning assembly. The whole school assembly will be held at 9.15 a.m. and it will include costume displays and celebrations in addition to children from each year group performing a reading/ book sharing activity. Parents are warmly welcomed. If parents are interested in doing a reading sharing activity, in this assembly or in classes, please see Miss Whitehouse.

Throughout the day, there will be lots of exciting book activities across the school, including a book swap within year groups, so please select an appropriate book that your child can bring in and give to their class teacher ready for the swap on that day. If you have a few books that you no longer need, please send them in to class teachers too so that we have some spare books if needed.

We will also be continuing the World Book Day Extreme Photo Challenge, where we invite children to bring in photographs of themselves (or with you) reading in extreme places, with your permission. These may be given in paper format or electronically to class teachers or emailed to [cwhitehouse@stmarysce.co.uk](mailto:cwhitehouse@stmarysce.co.uk), giving details of your child's name and class and your name if you are also reading in the photograph. These photographs will be displayed around the school.

## Absence and Safeguarding

The safety of your children is paramount to us and as such we contact you when your child is not in school, if we have not heard that they will not be in school. **Please can you endeavour to contact the school and leave a message before the start of the school day if your child is not going to be in, so that we can rest assured that they are safe.** Also, in the light of the story in the media last week we will now be implementing a protocol where if there is no response from the first contact, should a child be absent without notification, we will move down through the contact list until we gain a response.

## Outstanding Dinner Money

As you are aware the school runs an online payment system for school dinners, although you can still make payments in the office. Please can you ensure that your account is kept up to date so there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of your child's dinners. The school budget is extremely limited and the outstanding balance currently stands at £380 which is not insignificant. Please ensure that any unpaid amounts are cleared by the beginning of next half-term.

## Half term football club

The Devon FA is running a day of football at Tews Lane, Barnstaple on Thursday 15th February. This is open to boys and girls of primary school age and will run between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost of this will be £5 per child.

I hope that you have a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian Scarrett  
Headteacher

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