

Hello everybody!

I am delighted to welcome you all back to St Mary's for what we know, will be a fantastic Autumn Term. We hope you all had a relaxing summer, and we can't wait to hear about all the fun your children have had. I wanted to begin by thanking everybody for the way in which you supported the school at the end of the last academic year and for the warm welcome that you have all given me. I am so excited to properly begin my new role and to get stuck into life at St Mary's.

I look forward to sharing more information with you over the coming months about my vision for the school and the steps we will be taking, as a team, to implement these. The children will be at the heart of any decisions made at St Mary's and my first priority in Autumn will be to ensure all children settle into their new classes and feel safe and happy at school. We will be refreshing school rules and routines and will be setting and modelling high expectations for all children. I am currently reviewing the school's Behaviour Policy and practices and will share these with parents in due course.

Another priority for us at St Mary's is to ensure that we effectively communicate with parents in order to work together in the best interest of all children. Below, I have outlined some of our plans and processes around communication:

Daily Communications

Your child's class teacher will be at their classroom door each morning to greet them. You are welcome to chat to them and pass on any messages at that time. Staff are however expected to complete their daily register by 8:55am, so any longer conversations may require appointments to be made. SLT will also be visible at the beginning and end of each day by the gates, and you are more than welcome to share messages with them. SLT lead whole school worship and will need to go in when the doors close at 8:55am, they will be able to give you an appointment if you would like to have a longer, more confidential discussion.

Appointments

You are more than welcome to make appointments at the school office to speak with myself, Ms Palmer or Mrs Bough. We do ask that for class-based discussions, you first speak with your child's class teacher. As the person who knows your child best, they will be able to work with you and your child to resolve any class-based situations. If you then feel you would still like to talk to SLT, you can then arrange this with the office staff. We will endeavour to ensure that we meet with you in a timely manner however we do all have teaching commitments to take into consideration and our time with the children must come first.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or EHCPs

If your child requires additional intervention and provision that is additional to, or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools, and is on the SEND register, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is usually created. This outlines the targets, and interventions to meet these. At least every term, your child's class-teacher will share targets, along with any specific intervention and progress against previous targets with you. We very much value your input in helping us to ensure that the targets set are the most appropriate during these meetings.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or SEND concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. The SENDCo, Ms R Palmer, will also be holding weekly SEND drop-in sessions for any parent who would like to discuss their SEND concerns. Further information of the day and time to follow. For more detailed conversations, an appointment to meet with the SENDCo can be booked through the office.

Please note that the SENDCo also has additional SLT commitments and teaching responsibilities, so immediate responses are not always possible.

Newsletters

My Headteacher's Newsletter will be sent out monthly and will give you an update of what has been going on in school. This will be a fabulous opportunity to keep you updated on any upcoming events and to celebrate the achievements of the children. For this Newsletter I will be taking pictures of the children doing wonderful things. Alongside the photo consent that you fill in, could you please send a written note into the school office if you would not like photographs of your child and/or their work to appear in our school newsletter. You are welcome to use the template attached.

Class Dojo

We are currently in the process of setting up Class Dojo. This is a fantastic way of us sharing quick messages with you and updating you about events that are going on in school. Through Dojo you will also be able to message myself and your child's class teacher directly. We hope that this will make communication more instant and will remove the need for frequent written letters being sent home. Staff will have been trained on using Class Dojo by your class open evening and will take that opportunity to support you to use the app. We are hoping to spend the next couple of weeks getting everybody connected and then we will enable messages once staff have been trained.

Celebration Worship

We can't wait to invite you to join us for our celebration worship on a Friday and we hope to resume these as soon as we have settled into the new term. Celebration Worship will now take place at 2:30pm on a Friday afternoon, we will let you know when these are starting in due course. Parents who's child/ren are receiving a certificate will be invited in advance via Class Dojo.

Class Open Evenings

We encourage you to join us for your child's class open evening. This will last around half an hour and your child's class teacher will talk through their learning this year, share expectations of reading and homework, and answer any questions you may have.

I have re-shared the dates below, please note that there was previously an error around the date for Reception and there has been a date swap between year 5 and Year 6.

Monday 23rd September 2024	Year 5
Tuesday 24th September 2024	Year 6
Wednesday 25th September 2024	Year 4
Tuesday 1st October 2024	Year 3
Thursday 3rd October 2024	Year 2
Tuesday 8th October 2024	Year 1
Thursday 10th October 2024	Reception



USEFUL INFORMATION

PE Days

Please continue to send your children to school in their PE Kit on their PE days which are as follows:

Monday- Year 2, Year 3

Tuesday- Year 6

Wednesday- Year 1, Year 4

Thursday- Year 5

Friday- Reception

I will write to you with more information regarding Year 3 swimming in the near future.

Harvest Festival

I am hopeful that I did send you the correct date for this, however just to confirm it will be at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 23rd October at 2pm.

Trim Trail

Please do not let your children play on the trim trail on the KS2 playground before or after school.

Uniform

It has been amazing to see the children looking so smart today as they return for the new academic year. Whilst we do plan to review and update the uniform policy in due course you can find the current policy on the school website. We do expect that all children wear the correct uniform to school each day.

Medical Information

Please ensure you complete the asthma form (separate letter) if your child has asthma. They must have 2 inhalers in school at all times. Mrs Bough is our asthma lead so if you have any questions please feel free to contact her via the main school phone. If your child has an epi-pen or there is any other medical information you would like to update school on, please pop into the office or give us a call as soon as possible. If your child has an epi-pen there should be 2 epi pens in school at all times.

Playgroup

We are hoping to start our own playgroup on Wednesday mornings for all children aged 3 and under. Please spread the word to help us grow our St Mary's family! More information to follow.



Kind Regards,
Mrs Wainwright



PHOTO CONSENT LETTER TEMPLATE

Dear Mrs Wainwright,

I would not like my child:..... In class To have their photograph, school work and/or name used in your school newsletter.

Many Thanks,
.....

Please note this is only a template you do not need to print or use this, a handwritten note is fine.

Please also note that if you are happy for photographs of your child to appear in the newsletter you do not need to take any further action.

