



St Mary's C of E Primary School, Timsbury

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June 2017

Dear Families and Friends of St Mary's

Term 6 is already well underway - please keep the list of dates to hand as this term is usually very busy!

Please have a look at our school website if you haven't done so recently. There are lots of photos on class pages showing you what your children have been learning during the day - including lots from the recent Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay in Dorset. Thank you very much to Mr Webb, Pascale and Jan Merchant for being willing to give up a week with their own families, to allow us to offer this residential opportunity to The Eagles. It is a huge responsibility and very much appreciated.



You can also see some photos from the current Year 6 Outdoor Learning project, led by EcoWild, which encourages them to explore the environment of Timsbury in greater depth. This is already proving to be a fantastic experience - funded through the PTA. Thank you!

In the Photo Gallery you can also see some photos taken during Monday's presentation to the designers of the Timsbury Horticultural Show programme. Well done to Megan and Zoe for being runners up, and to Sam (Y4) who was the overall winner of their annual competition.

I wish to give advance notice to parents that the price for a school meal will increase in September. Bath and North East Somerset have just informed us that they have to charge more because of the increased costs they are facing. In addition, as a school, we are now facing increasing costs for fuel and we are also having to pick up the cost of maintaining and repairing all kitchen equipment. To give you an example, we have recently had an invoice for £3,000 worth of repairs. These costs are not factored into the pricing of meals. **From September, each pupil meal will cost £2.70.** I recognise that this is a considerable increase - and one that may mean hot school meals become unaffordable for families. I have begun to look at alternative catering providers, to see if we can continue to provide good school meals that are compliant with the necessary nutritional guidelines, but provide better value for money. I will update you in due course, however we may not be able to secure a new provider before the price increase comes into effect.

PTA SUMMER FAIR

The PTA are delighted to be able to fund SAMBA workshops on Thursday and Friday - which will culminate in a Samba procession to open the fair. We aim to begin the procession by 3pm so that all children can take part, even if you are not staying on for the fair. Please gather on the pavement in the front of the school fence (road side!), from 2.50pm, so that you are ready!

Thank you.

The day of the Fair itself will be a non-uniform day: bright, colourful clothes please!

Please think carefully about footwear. I know it can be tempting to let children wear more casual shoes on dress-down days, especially if it is hot, but we ask that sensible school shoes are still worn to help protect feet whilst running around on the playgrounds please. Thank you for your understanding.

Could you be a parent governor?

St Mary's has made significant progress towards achieving an OFSTED grading of "Good" - and we are expecting to have a Section 5 inspection soon that will confirm this. Whilst there is no doubt that teaching and learning continues to improve markedly, and that standards for children are rising across the board, the school is also "judged" against a number of other criteria. One area that OFSTED consider is "Leadership and Management". The judgement that inspectors make in this area is not based upon the performance of the Headteacher, but on leadership at all levels. This includes teachers taking a lead in their specific areas of curriculum responsibility; and governance. It is this aspect of Leadership and Management - governance - that is causing us some concern at the moment. To be blunt, the governing body has a pressing need for a quorate governing body that is drawn from all representatives of all the the school stakeholders. The fact that we don't is a significant risk factor for our forthcoming inspection.

We have been fortunate in co-opting Jane Brown to be Chair of Governors for an interim period, and there is a succession plan in place to ensure that stable leadership of the governing body will be secured next year. However we only have one parent governor (Steve Boxall) who is well into his second term of office. The last two calls for parents to stand for election have had no responses. The leadership of the school is not just about one person - it needs you too! If you think you can support the school through becoming a member of the governing body please let Steve Boxall know as soon as possible. He can be contacted through the school office. Thank you.

B&NES Trading Standards Department has recently issued a press release into fidget spinners that were seized within BANES due to them not being labelled correctly and therefore being potentially unsafe. A copy is reproduced below for your convenience.

Bath & North East Somerset Council is warning residents about the dangers of fidget spinners, after its Trading Standards team seized nearly 300 spinners from shops and stalls in Bath.

They seized fidget spinners with small parts that can easily pop out, causing a choking hazard to young children. Some featured a blade with sharp pointed edges, and others had LED lights containing lithium-ion batteries which, if ingested, can cause internal bleeding.

In most cases, no safety warnings or minimum age restrictions were indicated on the fidget spinners. There were also no name and address details for the manufacturer/importer, which would enable the fidget spinners to be swiftly withdrawn from the market in the event of a product safety issue.

Councillor Martin Veal (Conservative, Bathavon North), Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "Fidget spinners are new and currently very popular among young people. We want to ensure that when using these devices that young people are safe. Our Trading Standards Officers have been looking at some of the spinners on sale and found them to have very small and dangerous parts, so for public safety it's only right that they be withdrawn from sale. Anyone buying a fidget spinner should purchase it from a reputable trader and ensure the safety warnings can be clearly seen on the packaging."

Bath & North East Somerset Council's Trading Standards Officers are now working with the fidget spinner sellers to trace the supply chain and identify the importers so that the dangers to children identified can be addressed.

If you have concerns about a spinner you have bought, or a retailer selling them, contact the Citizen Advice Bureau on 03454 040506; if necessary, they will refer complaints to the relevant local authority if Trading Standards need to investigate.

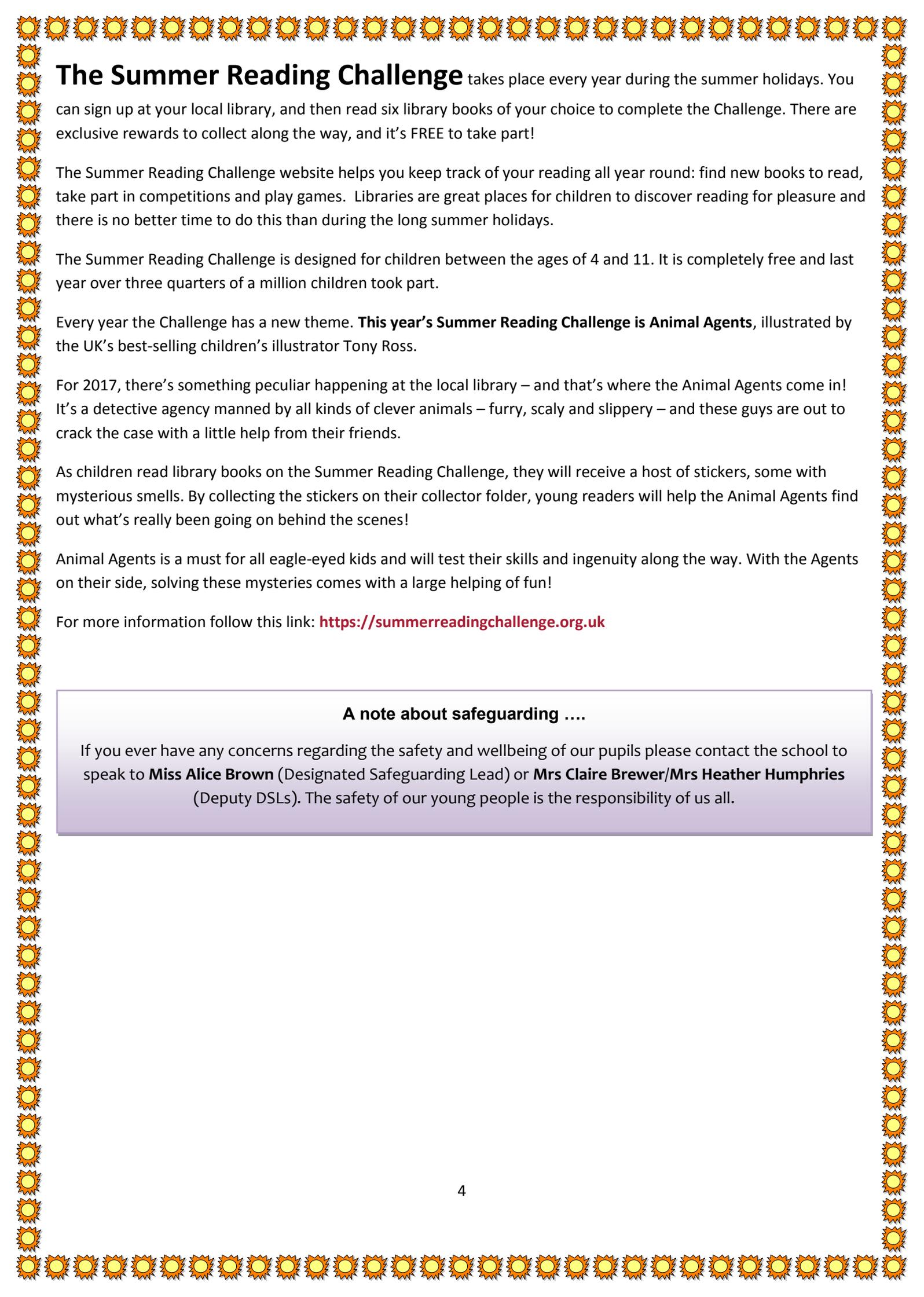
If you are a business and want advice on whether the products you are selling are safe please contact your local Trading Standards Team.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP - WEDNESDAY 5th JULY

9am School Hall - All Welcome!

I have invited Catherine de Visser (School Nurse) to school on Wednesday 5th July. She will be leading a session on children's mental health - specifically anxiety - which all families are welcome to attend. This was recently offered to families at Peasedown Primary and the feedback from parents there was exceptionally positive. Please do come along for a solution focussed workshop on how we can all work together to improve the mental health of children and young people.

REMEMBER: HATS, SUN SCREEN and WATER BOTTLES PLEASE!



The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, and then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, and it's FREE to take part!

The Summer Reading Challenge website helps you keep track of your reading all year round: find new books to read, take part in competitions and play games. Libraries are great places for children to discover reading for pleasure and there is no better time to do this than during the long summer holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 11. It is completely free and last year over three quarters of a million children took part.

Every year the Challenge has a new theme. **This year's Summer Reading Challenge is Animal Agents**, illustrated by the UK's best-selling children's illustrator Tony Ross.

For 2017, there's something peculiar happening at the local library – and that's where the Animal Agents come in! It's a detective agency manned by all kinds of clever animals – furry, scaly and slippery – and these guys are out to crack the case with a little help from their friends.

As children read library books on the Summer Reading Challenge, they will receive a host of stickers, some with mysterious smells. By collecting the stickers on their collector folder, young readers will help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes!

Animal Agents is a must for all eagle-eyed kids and will test their skills and ingenuity along the way. With the Agents on their side, solving these mysteries comes with a large helping of fun!

For more information follow this link: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

A note about safeguarding

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils please contact the school to speak to **Miss Alice Brown** (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or **Mrs Claire Brewer/Mrs Heather Humphries** (Deputy DSLs). The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

DIARY DATES 2016-2017

Thursday 15 th June	SAMBA Workshops
Friday 16 th June	SAMBA Workshops, Procession and Summer Fair Mufti Day - "South America" Theme
Saturday 17 th June	Timsbury Fun Day!
Tuesday 20 th June	Year 4 Residential (Bee Class) Talk 3.30pm with Mrs Munro
Thursday 22 nd June	New Intake Welcome Evening (Reception 2017 intake) Please note change of date
Friday 30 th June	Sports Day
Monday 3 rd July	Sports Day (Reserve)
Wednesday 5 th July	Children's Mental Health Workshop - 9am. School Nursing All welcome
Monday 10 th July	Year 5/6 Performance - afternoon to whole school
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 5/6 Performance - early evening to families
Friday 14 th July	Term 6 AWARDS, Family Picnic and Open Afternoon
Friday 21 st July	Leavers' Service Last Day of Term 6 - school closes 2pm.
Friday 1 st September	INSET day - school closed for pupils
Monday 4 th September	First day of school for pupils in Y1 to Y6. (EYFS parents are provided with induction arrangements as part of the Welcome event in June)

TERM DATES 2017-2018

	INSET DAYS	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 1	Friday 1 st September	Monday 4 th September	Friday 20 th October
Term 2	Tuesday 31 st October	Wednesday 1 st November	Friday 15 th December
Term 3	Three Further INSET Days yet to be set	Tuesday 2 nd January '18	Friday 9 th February '18
Term 4		Monday 19 th February '18	Friday 23 rd March '18
Term 5		Monday 9 th April '18	Friday 25 th May 2017
Term 6		Monday 4 th June	Tuesday 24 th July

Please note these differ very slightly from the dates on the B&NES website as we will have a slightly longer October break.