



St Mary's C of E Primary School, Timsbury

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23rd March 2018

Dear Families and Friends of St Mary's

This term seems to have just flown by - even more so perhaps because of the days we have had to close due to the snow. It is never a decision that is taken lightly and I was very disappointed not to be able to open on Monday. Staff had made valiant efforts to try and set off for work, only to find roads closed or that sheet ice was making it impossible and/or dangerous to drive. Mr Sage had been clearing the site in readiness too – but in the end, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, we felt that closure was the only safe option for children and staff. Thank you for your support with this difficult decision. I very much hope that warmer days are on horizon; and that we are able to reschedule the Year 6 trip.

Thank you for the tremendous support for our **SCIENCE OPEN CLASSROOM EVENT - #KIDS TAKE OVER** – and to Jenny Scott for being the inspirational organiser once again. It was fabulous to see our children so engaged with the projects and experiments that they had been carrying out with the help of the professionals, and very impressive that they were able to communicate their work to a wide audience confidently too. At St Mary's, our approach to science is that we want to encourage children to be curious about the world around them and to develop the knowledge and skills to design ways of investigating their own questions. I believe our partnership work with The University of Bath, thanks to Jenny Scott, is a good example of promoting this. We are already wondering how we can build on this for Science Week next year: so if you have any ideas, please let Mr Daniels (Science Leader) or Jenny Scott know! Thank you

Our event is funded by



Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up.

— Stephen Hawking —

AZ QUOTES

BADGER CAKE SALE

Well done to Badgers and thank you to all the families that made cakes for our sale; as well as to all of you who came along to buy them! We rose just over £75 to save the Rainforest because of your support, which is amazing!

EASTER CELEBRATION

Well done to Year 4 and 5 for leading a fabulous Easter Celebration and to Rev. Martin Blewett for his magic trick to help us picture how Jesus left his stone tomb.

THANK YOU to all our families who are respecting the yellow zig-zags outside the front of the school. The situation has improved considerably this term, which is brilliant news for the safety of our children. It is however, disappointing to note that there are a few people who are still not respecting our polite requests and reminders... and the Community Police are being notified of this.

Whilst on the subject of safety, can I also just remind parents that children must **normally use a child car seat** until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall **must wear a seat belt**. The [Child Car Seats website](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk) has information on how to choose a seat and travel safely with children in cars. (<http://www.childcarseats.org.uk>)

THANK YOU to Jane Brown, who stepped down as Chair of Governors earlier this month; and to Judy Baker, who has also left the Governing Body after serving 5 years for St Mary's. We very much appreciate the time and commitment you have given to the school, voluntarily, to ensure St Mary's continues to flourish. Steve Boxall is now our Chair of Governors and should you need to make contact with him or any other governor, this can be done so via the school office. As you are aware, we are currently asking for nominations for **Parent Governors** – and these need to be returned by **9am on Monday 16th April** please.

INSET DAY 5: Please note this is now confirmed as Friday 29th June. School is closed to pupils on this day.

Staffing Update



Congratulations to Mr Finlay and his partner, who are expecting their first baby towards the end of July.

Congratulations to Mrs Brewer and her family, who will also be welcoming a new arrival in August!



Miss Venner (who was appointed to cover the duration of Miss Wylie's maternity leave) has secured a permanent teaching post in Corsham, which she will be taking up in September. Congratulations!

We are currently making arrangements to cover Mrs Brewer's SENCO responsibilities while she is on maternity leave; and are in the midst of recruiting some new members of the team for September. I will update you as and when appointments are made.

Best wishes for Easter,
Miss Brown

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** (Deputy DSL). The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

DIARY DATES 2017-2018

Monday 9 th April	INSET DAY 4 – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tuesday 10 th April	Term 5 starts for pupils
14 th – 17 th May	Statutory Key Stage 2 Assessment Week
19 th May	PTA Barn Dance – Conygre Hall
21 st – 25 th May	Healthy Choices Week
Wednesday 23 rd May	Term 5 AWARDS
24 th and 25 th May	Life Education Van visit to School
25 th May	Last Day Term 5
Monday 4 th June	Term 6 starts
Tuesday 19 th June	Tulip Class Photographs
Friday 22 nd June	PTA Summer Fair and Carnival Procession
Thursday 28 th June	Year 6 Production 6pm
Friday 29 th June	INSET DAY 5 – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Thursday 5 th July	B&NES Secondary School Transition Day for Year 6
Friday 6 th July	Sports Day – confirmed date
Monday 9 th - Friday 13 th July	Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 17 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 20 th July	Term 6 AWARDS and Family Open Afternoon TBC
Tuesday 24 th July	Leavers' Service Last Day of Term 6. School Ends 2pm
Week commencing 24 th September 2018	Year 6 Residential – now confirmed

Raise Money for the PTA just by shopping online!

Users of Easyfundraising have raised over **£1000** for the PTA so far.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU TO OUR 53 SUPPORTERS!

It doesn't cost you ANYTHING extra – and just involves a few extra clicks!



The website: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

How?

Click on the Green "Support a Good Cause"; type in Timsbury in the search box; chose St Mary's Primary (at the bottom of the list); Click 'Find' then "Support this Cause". This takes you to a registration page. When you then access online shopping sites via EasyFundraising to make a purchase, the PTA receive a donation. It doesn't cost you a penny more, your purchase details are not shared with anyone, and the PTA receives a monthly donation to spend in school on children!

CAN WE GET TO 70 SUPPORTERS BEFORE EASTER???

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

EVERY PENNY HELPS

TERM DATES 2017-2018

	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 5	Monday 9 th April	Tuesday 10 th April	Friday 25 th May
Term 6	Friday 29 th June	Monday 4 th June	Tuesday 24 th July

TERM DATES 2018-2019

	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 1	Monday 3 rd September Friday 26 th October	Tuesday 4 th September 2018	Thursday 25 th October 2018
Term 2		Monday 5 th November 2018	Friday 21 st December 2018
Term 3		Monday 7 th January 2019	Friday 15 th February 2019
Term 4	Monday 25 th February	Tuesday 26 th February 2019	Friday 5 th April 2019
Term 5	2 INSET DAYS STILL TO BE SET	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019	Friday 24 th May 2019
Term 6		Monday 3 rd June 2019	Tuesday 23 rd July

Holidays and Penalty Notices

Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time, including for family holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a death or significant trauma in the family. If parents or carers wish to make a request for authorisation of a term time absence because they feel it is an exceptional circumstance, they are asked to complete and submit a **Leave of Absence Request Form** in advance, stating the reason why they need to take their child out of school. Even where exceptional circumstances do exist, the school may decide not to exercise its discretion to authorise leave. Should any request for absence be refused the absence will be recorded as unauthorised in the school register. On returning from this absence, no matter what the length of that period of unauthorised leave, parents/carers will receive a standard notification letter outlining the circumstances under which they may be liable for a penalty notice. **A penalty notice will be requested should there be any further unauthorised absence during the child's time at St Mary's.** Families who persistently take their children out of school for reasons that have not been authorised will be referred to the CMES.

Penalty notices will usually be issued where a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences (which is equivalent to 5 days) in the 100 sessions prior to the request for a penalty notice to be issued. **A penalty notice may also be issued for a first offence.** This could be where the unauthorised absence was for an extended period and/or condoned by the parent. An example of this would be instances of unauthorised absence such as holidays taken during term time without the schools permission.