



**Dear Families and Friends of St Mary's**

It's hard to believe this is only the second week of term 4, as so much learning has been going on. It is always an absolute delight to be able to walk around our lovely school and visit classes hard at work.



Miss Smith is helping Ducklings to get the Incubator ready for egg hatching. Keep an eye on the webpage for The Pond to see if they hatch!



Badgers re-telling the story of the talking papaya. (And yes, it really DID talk!)



Bee Class held their own Winter Olympic Bobsleigh event as their "Dazzling Start" to the term!

The Eagles developed their understanding of democracy with Rosamond Birch, Outreach visitor from Parliament.



Thank you to the parents who attended the Phonics Workshop this week, which was ably led by Miss Smith and Miss Venner. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the Power point, it can be found on the Ducklings webpage.

APOLOGIES for cancelling the "Books at Bedtime" event scheduled for tomorrow evening. In light of the variability in weather forecasts, but with the risk of a significant snowfall highlighted in many of them, Mr Webb and I felt it was safer for all concerned to make the decision today. Most teachers have a considerable distance to travel, as do some Teaching Assistants – and I am not sure that our heating would be adequate enough for children in pyjamas! I would rather that we were all able to get home safely as soon as possible after school tomorrow. (Of course this probably means we won't get any snow at all now, but it didn't seem worth the risk of having to cancel at short notice tomorrow if it does arrive!) At this time, we anticipate that the other events for World Book Day will go ahead as planned.

## STAFF NEWS

I am delighted to be able to share that Miss Wylie has had her baby – a girl called Florence. Miss Rhymer-Nott's daughter, Avis, has also arrived safely. Congratulations to both families! We are looking forward to meeting the girls soon.



## SCIENCE OPEN AFTERNOON

Please remember that on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** there will be an **Open Classroom** Science event from 1.30pm – 3pm in the afternoon, which families are invited to. This will be a chance to see the results of the investigations that your child has undertaken this term, with help from the Bath University Scientists. Please remember to sign in at the school office for this event as you arrive; thank you. We are unable to accommodate pushchairs around the school, but you are welcome to bring pre-school siblings with you if you need to.

Our event is funded by



## SCHOOL SNACKS AND LUNCHES FROM HOME

Please could all families remember that we are a healthy school and snacks sent in from home, for break time, must be a piece of fruit or a vegetable such as carrots. Fruit winders, cereal bars, cakes etc are not permitted. We do run a fruit shop in school, so if you want to set up a "tab", your child will be able to buy fruit every morning. School Meals have to follow strict nutritional guidelines and we would urge you to take advantage of the Dolce school meal provision. If you prefer your child to have "sandwiches" from home, we are asking parents to ensure these also follow healthy eating principles please. Lunchboxes should not contain chocolate, biscuits, large slices of cake, crisps or sweets. Thank you for your support with this.

## FOREST SCHOOL – YEAR 3 and GROUP

Please be aware that there will be a change to the timing of Forest School Session in Week 3 - it will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, not 8<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you. This change of date is because KS2 have a visitor from the Dogs Trust in school on Thursday.

Keep warm!

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

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day – Dressing Up!
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Fire Safety Talk
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest School change of date from 8/3/18
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen Peake – Dogs Trust Visitor KS2 Workshops
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Open Classrooms – Science Event
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Rabbits Lead Collective Worship 9.05am Y1 parents welcome
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Dance Umbrella – KS1 and KS2
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 to LifeSkills
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	PTA Easter Bingo TBC
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	EASTER Service led by Year 4 and 5 (NO AWARDS this term) End of Term 4 – usual time of 3.15pm
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Statutory Key Stage 2 Assessment Week
19 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Barn Dance – Details to follow
21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Healthy Choices Week
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Term 5 AWARDS TBC
24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Life Education Van visit to School
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Tulip Class Photographs
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Production 6pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day TBC
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	B&NES Secondary School Transition Day for Year 6
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Term 6 AWARDS and Family Open Afternoon TBC
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service Last Day of Term 6. School Ends 2pm

## Raise Money for the PTA just by shopping online!

Users of Easyfundraising have raised over £900 for the PTA so far. Can you help get us to £1000 before Easter? 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!

## TERM DATES 2017-2018

	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 4		Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Term 5	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
Term 6	One further INSET day to be set	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July

## TERM DATES 2018-2019

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

### 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.