



5th January 2018

Dear Families and Friends of St Mary's

Welcome back! I am sure that 2017 will be a successful one for all at St Mary's: we are really excited to be back at work and it is lovely to see all the children refreshed and ready for learning after the break.

TREES

Hopefully you will have noticed that before Christmas, at the front of the school, we planted 6 new fruit trees. Mrs Munro was successful in a bid for a grant from the Tree Council. Their support, together with some expert advice from Chew Valley Trees, has enabled us to develop our gardening work through the purchase of these trees. We hope that they stand up to the current high winds – and that in the autumn we will be able to eat some of our first, school grown fruit. You can see a few more photographs on the school website, in the Photo Gallery.



DOLCE TASTER

Come along to the school hall on Friday 12th January at 3.15pm to have some free tasters of the forthcoming meals on offer from Dolce. Please remember that from Monday 15th January, all meals will need to be ordered, and paid for, via the Dolce "Live Kitchen". Please could you let Mrs Platten know early next week if you need help with this.

THURSDAY 18th JANUARY CENSUS MEAL DAY

We would like to encourage everyone to try a school dinner on this day, even if they do not usually have one. This is at no cost to families in KS1 or those registered as eligible for Free School Meals; and £2.40 for all other children.

It is a good opportunity to try out the new catering service food; and also helps with our school funding. Our income for school meals is based on the numbers of KS1 children who are booked in for a school meal on that day.

Please could all children in Ducklings, Rabbits and Badgers be booked in for a school dinner on that day if possible? There are four main menu options available on that day – Roast Chicken, Veggie Bangers and Gravy, Plain Omelette or Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings. For pudding, there will be a choice of Peach Crumble and custard, yoghurt or fruit salad.

Your support with this is very welcome.



CYCLE SHELTER I am pleased to be able to confirm that Planning Permission for our Cycle Shelter project has been granted. This means that we are able to go ahead and organise for demolition of the existing shelter and for the new ones to be installed. We hope that this can be completed before Easter!

A PLEA FROM A PARENT

Please can anyone waiting for children at the end of the day – especially if you have a dog with you - try to stand on the pavement in such a way so that others are also able to walk by safely with small children? Thank you.

Miss Brown and the Staff Team

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

VALUES

Our focus values for Collective Worship this academic year are:

Term 3	Friendship
Term 4	Hope
Term 5	Truthfulness
Term 6	Generosity

During the year classes will have the opportunity to lead Worship; parents of children from that class are warmly invited to join us on those occasions. Dates are notified via the Newsletter.



Mentoring Plus would like to say a huge thank you to the staff, parents/carers and pupils at St. Mary's Primary School who raised a fantastic £100 for our projects at the Christmas Nativity. It's brilliant that you are fundraising to support other young people in our community who are facing significant challenges. It makes a huge difference to their lives. To find out more about our work, please visit www.mentoringplus.net

DIARY DATES 2017-2018

Tuesday 2 nd January	Term 3 starts for everyone
Wednesday 10 th January	OFSTED discussion with Governors
Friday 12 th January	Dolce Taster
Monday 15 th January	Dolce School Meals begin
Wednesday 17 th January	Parent Consultations
Thursday 18 th January	Parent Consultations Census Day
Friday 19 th January	School closed to pupils: INSET DAY 3
Tuesday 30 th January	Ducklings Lead Collective Worship 9.05am EYFS parents welcome
Thursday 1 st February	PTA DISCO
Thursday 8 th February	AWARDS
Friday 9 th February	End Term 3
Tuesday 13 th March	Rabbits Lead Collective Worship 9.05am Y1 parents welcome
Friday 23 rd March	EASTER Service led by Year 4 and 5 NO AWARDS this term! End of Term 4 – usual time of 3.15pm



Thursday 1st February: PTA School Discos

£3 per child

(includes glow stick and chocolate treat)

KS1 5.00 – 5.55pm

KS2 6– 6.55pm

**Tickets available from the School Office
commencing 22nd January**

**If you are able to help at this event please let the
school office or PTA know. Thank you.**

TERM DATES 2017-2018			
	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 3	Friday 19 th January	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Friday 9 th February
Term 4	Two Further INSET Days yet to be set	Monday 19 th February	Friday 23 rd March
Term 5		Monday 9 th April	Friday 25 th May
Term 6		Monday 4 th June	Tuesday 24 th July

TERM DATES 2018-2019			
Term 1	INSET DAYS yet to be set	Monday 3rd September 2018	Friday 26th October 2018
Term 2		Monday 5th November 2018	Friday 21st December 2018
Term 3		Monday 7th January 2019	Friday 15th February 2019
Term 4		Monday 25th February 2019	Friday 5th April 2019
Term 5		Tuesday 23rd April 2019	Friday 24th May 2019
Term 6		Monday 3rd June 2019	Tuesday 23rd 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.