

The St Mary's News



Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

E-mail: office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk

Issue: 14

11th September 2020

A note from Mr Cox, Mrs Brewer and Mr Finlay,

Hello and welcome to St Mary's news.

HOORAY we are back. I cannot tell you how pleased we are to have the children back in school. It has been great to see them all and catch up. I must also say a very big thank you for all your support and help in these very different times. The children have been amazing and have coped with the new systems really well. I must also say thank you to all the staff for their efforts and support especially with the children when they might struggle with the new systems. Our team of teachers, teaching assistants, office and kitchen staff have been amazing.

As we have reopened the school a few things have to come to my attention that would be helpful to yourselves to clarify.

CURRICULUM: -

Certain subjects have had to be adapted to conform to Government guidelines. Currently whole class or school singing and certain aspects of music are not being taught. P.E. lessons are going ahead but the activities have been adapted to make them safer. We can also no longer hold whole school worship so Mrs Brewer and I are doing online worship for the children to watch.

FRUIT SHOP-

Currently due to Government legislation we will not be able to run the break time fruit shop. Therefore, the children will need to bring in their own fruit snacks. Children in EYFS and Key Stage One will still receive free fruit at breaktimes.

WATER: -

As the water fountains cannot be used it is vital that all children have a water bottle everyday with fresh water.

Reading Books

Reading books need to come to and from school daily as they are used in school as well as at home. Once a book is finished with the teachers have boxes in the room that they put the books in for 48 hours to quarantine them. After the 48 hours the books get put back on the shelf. The children's reading records can be kept at home and filled in by yourselves. Teachers will then send out a message if they need to review the records. Each teacher keeps their own log in school. Sounds write books are issued on a Monday, kept all week and returned on a Friday. These books need to be practised every night at home and brought into school daily.

Remote Learning

If you should find yourselves in a position where you have to self-isolate your child/children because your waiting on a test or someone in your family is showing symptoms then the remote learning will be in operation. On the first day I would ask that everyone uses the Oak National Academy, <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>. Then at the end of the school day the teacher of your child will upload work on to the school website for you to do with your child.

In the next couple of weeks, we will have set up a program called Seesaw which allows for remote teaching and learning. You will be receiving a letter about this soon. This program will replace the use of the school website for this purpose.

Should we be told we have to isolate an entire class bubble and the teacher is well, then they will use Seesaw and remotely teach. If the class teacher falls ill then the teaching will be done a member of the leadership team and Mrs. Munro. They will be using the class teacher's planning. The work that has been completed can either be emailed into school, or brought in once the child/ren have returned.

TRUST

In amongst all of the pandemic organisation we are still pushing forward on school improvement work. Over the summer holiday we have had the decoration of two classrooms and the Deputy Heads office, new interactive boards in three classrooms, improved I.T. infrastructure, improved resourcing of the Reception class and tidying up of some of the outdoor space. We are also due to take delivery of 15 Chrome books to use in classrooms.

Over the next months we will have support from a range of specialists within the trust.

School Improvement

This term we are spending our time on further developing reading in the classroom and embedding all the work we did on writing. This is being led by Miss Morris, our English curriculum leader.

As a school we have also decided to invest time in Instructional coaching. These are different approaches to use in school to support the learning that happens in the classroom. It is a collection of approaches that have been gathered from a lot of research over many years.

In every classroom now we have moved over to using an electronic behaviour management system called Track IT. This system allows for greater monitoring of behaviour and more opportunities to celebrate success.

Safe guarding, E-Safety and Social Media

One of the INSET days was used to update all staff with the most current safeguarding guidelines. I also use this every year to remind the school community on the correct way to use social media.

I have uploaded a parent guide on using Facebook to the website under the parent tab. I have also taken this section from it to just remind us all about social media.

Safety, Privacy & Reputation Point: What you say reflects on you. It always helps to think about the impact and audience when you post on someone's wall, "Like" or comment on someone's update or even support a cause. What might this say about you? If you just want to say something to a single friend, just send a private message or use Facebook chat. But remember that even that can be copied and posted somewhere else if the person didn't like what you said (or did)!

Mrs Parsons

As I know you are aware when we joined the trust we were very fortunate to gain the experience and expertise of Mrs Parsons. Mrs Parsons is the Executive Headteacher of both Trinity Church School and St Mary's. She will be supporting and ensuring that the work done at St Mary's secures the best outcomes for the school. I have already spent time with her in school and have benefitted from the support and input that she has given. Mrs Parsons is very keen to get to know the school and its community. She has already spent a number of days in school and has spent time in every classroom meeting the staff and children. Mrs Parsons will be introducing herself and writing a piece in one of the up and coming newsletters. I look forward to further developing the already strong working relationship and the benefit that that will bring to all at St Mary's.

Drop off and collection

Thank you for making this work as smoothly as it has. Towards the end of this term I will be looking at the timings and risk assessment and will decide whether or not we can reduce the drop off and collection periods to make it easier and quicker for yourselves and the children. I will keep you all informed and give you as much notice as possible.

Once again thank you for all your support and please keep yourselves safe.

M.Cox

NB: Please note that the school's email address has changed to: office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk

Compassion

This term's value is Compassion. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. During this term we will be thinking about:

- In what ways do we encourage members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another.
- How we foster links with charities for those in need
- How our new members of the school community are nurtured and supported

You will find some helpful activities to discuss 'Compassion' with your child/ren at the end of this newsletter.

Booking Dinners Reminder

All meals should be paid for online and in advance please. If you have difficulties doing this, please contact Mrs Hawkins so she can help sort out the problem. Remember to notify the office by 9am if the pattern needs to be changed for any reason to avoid being charged for dinners not taken.

Meals will not routinely be served without prior payment being received.

Children who have just moved to Year 3 no longer receive free school meals, unless you are eligible by benefit to do so *and* have had this confirmed by the LA

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS - EBB?

Please register your child (including those in Reception, year 1 and year 2) for free school meals if you are in receipt of qualifying benefits. Registration will attract additional funding for our school for Pupil Premium (£1,320 per Primary pupil for the financial year 2019-20).

You can register your entitlement for Free School Meals - Eligible by Benefit (EBB) if you have children who attend a school in Bath and North East Somerset, and you are in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits listed below.

Qualifying benefits for Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, without any Working Tax Credit, and an annual household income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that is not more than £16,190
- Run-on Working Tax Credit which is only paid for 4 weeks after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

How to register – just call! Call the Free School Meals helpline on 01225 394317 to make a telephone registration. We will need you to tell us your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seeker Support Number when you call.

Please note that the Local Authority will check your eligibility to qualifying benefits on your behalf using the DFE online Free School Meal Eligibility Checking Service. Your National Insurance or National Asylum Seeker Support Number and Date of Birth must be accurate.

A note about safeguarding...

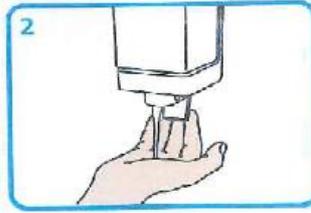
If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school to speak to Mr Finlay, Mrs Brewer, Mrs Purnell or Mr Cox. The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

TERM DATES 2020-2021			
Term	Start	End	INSET
1	Tuesday 1 st September 2020	Wednesday 21 st October 2020	Tuesday 1 st September 2020 Wednesday 2 nd September 2020
2	Monday 2 nd November 2020	Friday 18 th December 2020	Monday 2 nd November 2020
3	Monday 4 th January 2021	Friday 12 th February 2021	Monday 4 th January 2021 Tuesday 5 th January 2021
4	Monday 22 nd February 2021	Thursday 1 st April 2021	
5	Monday 19 th April 2021	Friday 28 th May 2021	
6	Monday 7 th June 2021	Friday 23 rd July 2021	

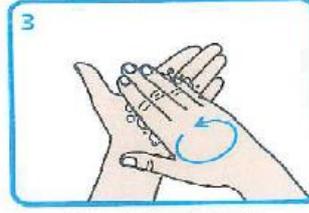
Hand-washing technique with soap and water



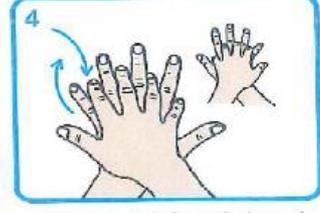
1 Wet hands with water



2 Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces



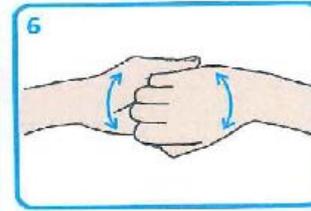
3 Rub hands palm to palm



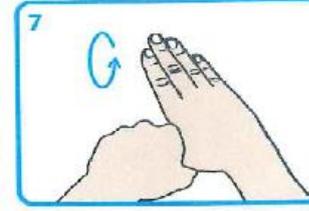
4 Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand with fingers interlaced



5 Rub palm to palm with fingers interlaced



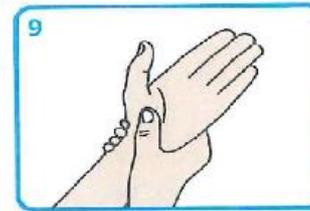
6 Rub with back of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



7 Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand using a rotational movement



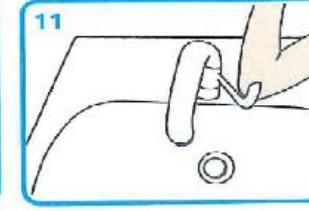
8 Rub tips of fingers in opposite palm in a circular motion



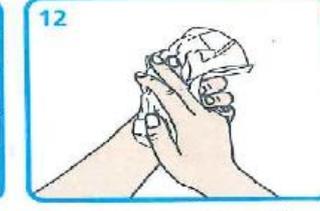
9 Rub each wrist with opposite hand



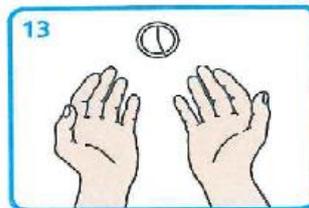
10 Rinse hands with water



11 Use elbow to turn off tap



12 Dry thoroughly with a single use towel



13 Hand washing should take 15-30 seconds

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **COMPASSION**. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Compassion

Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help



THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop



READ TOGETHER... The good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other.)

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the **compassion** and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Bible story based on Luke 10:29-31



QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| The traveller was attacked as he walked along the | ROAD |
| Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog | ---- |
| The Samaritan ____ the innkeeper to look after the man | ---- |
| The Samaritan acted with courage. He was ____ | ---- |
| We sometimes talk about the ____ of friendship (rhymes with pond) | ---- |
| Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find) | ---- |
| The Samaritan in the story was | ---- |



FAMILY FOCUS

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



www.randomactsofkindness.org



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make!

Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

www.worldvision.org.uk

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

- **Help the Hospices.** Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

www.hospiceuk.org



HALL OF FAME

A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. www.bbc.co.uk/childreninneed