

The St Mary's News



Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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

Hello and welcome to St Mary's news.

Welcome to October's newsletter. Since I last wrote the children have been working very hard and I have seen some great work going on in classes, including bread making, persuasive writing and learning to tell the time.

As you may be aware October is Black History Month and in school each class will focus on key historical figures who had a huge, positive impact on equality for all. In Key Stage 2 the children will also spend some time looking at and discussing the Black Lives Matters movement, where and why it originated and how we all deserve to be treated equally. To support this work in school I have attached to the school website a parent guide on Black Lives Matter.



Remote Learning.

Just to give everyone a quick update on remote learning. We now have the system set up and I hope you have all been able to register the children's accounts. The staff have been spending staff meeting time familiarising themselves with Seesaw and its potential, should we need to switch to it soon. In the long term we will be integrating Seesaw more into the day to day running of the school. As part of the checking and development of the school use of Seesaw the teachers will be putting a task on for next week so that the children can also get experience of using Seesaw. Should you have any technical issues, or need another copy of your child's home learning code, then please let us know and we will help to sort it out.

School Uniform

Can I take this opportunity to ask that all hair bands are either plain blue, white or black and that children do not wear any form of makeup or nail varnish in school.

Mobile Phones

I understand that a number of our older children are bring mobile phones in to school as they are walking to school on their own. As of Monday, all I would ask is that they are clearly identifiable as Miss Morris will be collecting them in on arrival and handing them out again at the end of the day.

PARENTS EVENING

We have had a number of people ask about Parents Evening. I am sorry about the delay in getting information out. We have, as part of the Trust purchased 'School Cloud Video Parents Evening'. Once this has been installed we will be in a position to hold parents evening remotely. Thank you for your patience and I will keep everyone posted.

Absence during term time:

Absence during term time will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances and never at the following times:

- KS1 & KS2 SATS assessments;
- if the pupil should be taking external examinations including GCSE module examinations;
- if attendance is under 96%;
- if there would be more than 10 days absence in any academic year.

If absences are not authorised, and they are still taken in the first instance a warning is issued. If a further unauthorised absence occurs then a penalty notice will be issued. If an unauthorised holiday is taken, no further absences will be authorised without medical evidence. If the absence is not authorised the parent will be notified in writing, by post or email.

The Headteacher, will be responsible for overseeing the Penalty Notice Request.

Penalty Notices for Holidays

In line with the amendments made to The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 please note the following:

- The Headteacher can now request that the local authority issue a Penalty Notice to parents, when pupils are taken out of school for 5 or more day's holiday or leave of absence without school authorisation.
- The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 when paid within 28 days.
- If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days the local authority is then obliged to prosecute for failing to ensure regular school attendance.
- Penalty notices are issued to each parent, for each pupil.

The Education Welfare Service can also instigate legal proceeding against parents under section 444 Education Act 1996 or apply to family proceeding court for an Education Supervision Order to secure regular attendance.

Celebrations



Stars of the week

Ducklings – Teddy, Caspar

Rabbits – Arthur, Amelia

Badgers – Matilda, Imogen

Bees – Isabella, Jack

Otters – Heidi, Jack

Lions – Brooke, Jack

Eagles – Henry, Harley

What we have done well

In Reception we are very proud of our phonics learning and that we are choosing to use our phonics during independent learning.

This week in Year 1 we are very proud of and really enjoyed our bread making.

In Year 2 we are really pleased with the writing and learning we have done on Nelson Mandela.

This week all of us in Year 3 have really enjoyed writing diaries as if we were on the bus with Rosa Parks.

Year 4 have done really well and they have enjoyed writing description in their stories.

Year 5 have had great fun creating and performing an Anglo Saxon and Viking dance.

Year 6 have really engaged with their guided reading this week.

Just a quick reminder to say that the last day of term is Wednesday 21st October and that term starts again for children on Tuesday 3rd November.

Harvest Donations

I would like to say a BIG thank you to all the generous food donations for our Harvest collection. They will be put to great use supporting people in these difficult times.

COVID-19 information

A quick guide for parents and carers



Please follow the advice in this guide. Only contact the school if your child is having a test and to let us know the result. Your school will not be able to advise beyond the information given here. **Please remember to only get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.**

YOU SHOULD BOOK A **TEST** IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

a high temperature

OR

a new continuous cough

OR

a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child DOES NOT have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they or members of your household do not need to self-isolate.

[Your child can attend school if fit to do so.](#)

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
My child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Book a test for your child Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate Inform school immediately about test result 	If test is negative and child is well enough, symptom free for 48 hours and not advised to self-isolate by test and trace service
My child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) Inform school immediately about test results Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) 	When child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Household & support bubble member with symptoms to book a test Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate while waiting for test result Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>When household & support bubble member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms and if child has not been advised to self isolate by test and trace services</p>
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Inform school immediately about test result 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Rest of household & support bubble does not need to self-isolate, unless they are also a 'close contact' 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>Your child has been in contact with someone who has been identified as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend school as normal If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities 	<p>Attend school as normal</p>
<p>We / my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days <p>Travel reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not take unauthorised leave in term time Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per attendance policy 	<p>When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school. Contact school as advised by attendance officer/pastoral team Child to shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>When school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>

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	