

The St Mary's News



Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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

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

Hello and welcome to St Mary's news.

Welcome to November's first newsletter. Since our last newsletter the children have produced some thoughtful work linked to Remembrance. I have also been very privileged to see some incredible writing going on across the school. The children at St Mary's are working extremely hard and producing some outstanding work.

Remote Learning



Just to give another update on remote learning: Should individual families need to self-isolate then any communication and learning on a 1 to 1 basis will be done through Seesaw. If for any reason an entire bubble, Key Stage or whole school needs to be closed then the Trust has taken the decision that all schools are to use 'Google Classrooms'. I am currently working on a set of guidelines and how to do guides, which will be sent out in a timely way to those needing to use Google Classroom.

Online Communication and Use of Social Media.

With the way that we are having to live our lives at the moment, especially now that we have gone in to a second lockdown, the use of Social Media to keep in touch has increased greatly. Whilst it is vitally important for children to keep in touch I would please ask that we are all aware of how our young people are using social media and ensure that any posting and comments are appropriate. Many of these social media platforms have in their terms and conditions age advice. For example, What's App has changed its age advice from 13 to 16 as from March 2018, Tik Tok has suggested an age appropriateness of 13. Thank you for your continuing support with this, in looking after the safety and wellbeing of all.

Leaving the school site

At the end of the day could I please ask that once you have your children / child could you please leave promptly and not stand near the school gates. We need to keep space and movement going once the children have been safely handed over.

Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone for the effort in getting to grips with the new technology for parents evening. I am sorry to those of you who encountered technical issues. We will endeavour to iron those out for next time. If you did not manage to get an appointment for whatever reason please contact the school and we will arrange a phone conversation with yourselves and the class teacher.

What we have done well

In this edition of the newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to actually praise the school as a whole. I have been very impressed with the way in which the children have been working in class. As I go around the school I see settled, focused learners. We have been working hard on making sure that St Mary's is a calm and focused school and the children have been ensuring that they move around the school in a very calm way.

I would also like to say thank you to the staff for their amazing effort in these difficult times. Whatever we end up having to do they carry it out with the same level of enthusiasm and dedication as always.

Golden Rules

From this term we now have a set of Golden Rules. These are displayed in all classrooms and certain other areas in the school. They are created to ensure that all children in all classes have the same expectations for how they conduct themselves in school.

- The Golden Rules are:-
1. We are honest, we do not cover up the truth.
 2. We listen to people, We do not interrupt.
 3. We always do our best, We do not waste our own or others' time.
 4. We are polite and helpful, we are not unkind.
 5. We look after property, We do not waste or damage things.
 6. We look after each other, we do not hurt anyone.

Celebrations



Stars of the week

Ducklings – Florence, Sol

Rabbits – Pippi, Emily H

Badgers – Roscoe, Felix

Bees – Bobbi, George

Otters – Louis, Isaac

Lions – Kara-Mai, Matilda

Eagles – Kelby, Leah

Community Wellbeing Hub (formerly called the Compassionate Community Hub).

I have attached a copy of a flyer, reminding everyone of the free support that there is available to all, especially in these challenging times.



The flyer features a purple background with a yellow banner at the top containing the text "COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB". Below the banner, on the left, is a yellow telephone handset icon next to the phone number "0300 247 0050". To the right of the phone number, the text reads "EMAIL: BATHNES.thehub@virginicare.co.uk" and "WEBSITE: www.compassioncb.org.uk/wellbeing". The flyer lists seven services in white rounded rectangular boxes: "Housing", "Feeling isolated, lonely or anxious", "Money advice & benefits support", "Stopping smoking", "Accessing food, transport or medication", "Achieving a healthy weight", and "Keeping active". At the bottom left, there are logos for "3SG", "NHS", "virginicare", and "Bath & North East Somerset Council" with the tagline "Improving People's Lives".

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week.

In school we take this opportunity to revisit what bullying is and remind children about the importance of speaking out. The children will be doing age appropriate activities in class to support their understanding of how to deal with incidents of bullying should they come across them in the future.

As part of anti-bullying week, it is National Wear Odd Sock Day on Monday 16th November.



Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

Miss Humphries will be sending out more information in a Parentmail.

Our core value this term is Community (Koinonia) Here are some activities that you can do with your child/ren to explore this value together.

COMMUNITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK TOGETHER ABOUT COMMUNITY...

There are many different kinds of community and most of us are part of several. We may belong to a school, a church, a club or a village or town. Belonging to a community means that we are not just an individual, separate from everyone else, but we are in relationship with others.

- Which **communities** do you belong to?
- Why is it important to you that you belong to them?
- How would life be different if you did not belong?



READ TOGETHER...

Jesus feeds 5000 people

Everyone loved to see and listen to Jesus. So everywhere Jesus went, many people followed.

One day a very big crowd gathered to see Jesus – more than five thousand people! There were men, women and children everywhere: sitting on the grass, standing under the trees, all trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus and hear what he had to say. Later when he had finished teaching, Jesus went around meeting people. Everyone was having a great day and nobody wanted to go home.

But the disciples began to worry. "Jesus, you need to send these people away now," they said, "they are a long way from home and will soon be getting hungry and we don't have any food to give them."

"It's alright," Jesus said, "You can give them something to eat."

"How can we do that!" exclaimed his friends, "It would cost loads of money to feed all these people! One young boy has donated his lunch but 5 barley loaves of bread and 2 fish won't be nearly enough."

"Tell everyone to sit down ready for a picnic," said Jesus. Then he prayed to God "Thank you for this food," he said, before he gave the bread and fish to his friends to share among the crowd. They looked at each other mystified, knowing that the bread and fish would soon run out. But they began to hand out the food...and more food...and more food, until at last they realised that everyone was happily eating. "Where did all that bread and fish come from?" they wondered. "How did so little food manage to feed so many people?"

Later, when the crowd had gone home, Jesus' friends went round with baskets to pick up the leftovers. What an amazing day it had been. They had seen Jesus teach people, help people, and somehow turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into enough food for a feast that no one could ever forget!



QUIZ

The bread we eat

The 5 loaves that the boy in the Bible story gave to Jesus were made from barley. Most of the bread we eat is made from wheat, but bread can be made from a number of different grains and have all kinds of shapes.

Match the loaf shapes with their names:

tin, farmhouse, cob, bagel, baguette, bloomer, cottage



THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; Together we can do great things.'

Mother Teresa

Can you think of a task that can be done with others but not alone?



FAMILY FOCUS

Think about Mother Teresa's words of wisdom (overleaf). What are the special gifts and talents of each member of your family?

How do each of you use your gifts and talents for the benefit of everyone in the family?

I'm good at woodwork. I make things for our house.

I love gardening. I grow fruit and vegetables for everyone.

I enjoy painting. I make pictures and cards for presents

I like singing and making up plays. I put on shows for the family.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Become a Baker

Bake some loaves of bread or bread rolls together as a family. Eat some at home and take others to school. You can find a recipe by entering 'easy bread recipes' into a search engine.



HALL OF FAME

Malala Yousafzai



Malala is now so famous that her name is known right around

the world, but the life of this amazing young person began in an ordinary and unremarkable village in Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai's father was a teacher in the local community and wanted all his children to have a good education in order that they could have fulfilling and successful lives. But, Malala writes:

"Everything changed when the Taliban took control of our town in the Swat Valley. The extremists banned many things like owning a television and playing music - and enforced harsh punishments for those who defied their orders. And they said girls could no longer go to school. I spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn. And this made me a target. In October 2012 on my way home from school, a masked gunman boarded my school bus and asked "Who is Malala?" He shot me on the left side of my head.

I woke up 10 days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England. The doctors and nurses told me about the attack and that I had been flown to the UK for medical treatment. They said that people around the world were praying for my recovery.

After months of surgeries and rehabilitation I knew I had a choice. I could live a quiet life or make the most of this new life. I determined to continue my fight until every girl could go to school."

Malala has been true to her word and in December 2014 she became the youngest ever Nobel Prize winner in recognition of her work as a fearless and sacrificial campaigner for girls' education, not just in her own community but across the world.

Malala says "There is still a lot to do. Even today, 130 million girls across the globe do not have the opportunity to go to school."



FASCINATING FACTS About bread

Bread is perhaps the food most associated with community. For thousands of years it has been an essential part of the family diet. Bread is also part of many religious and cultural ceremonies.

Jewish families celebrate the start of Shabbat (the sabbath) by eating a special loaf called challah.



In Russia, when an important or respected guest arrives at someone's home, as a symbol of welcome they are presented with a loaf of bread with a salt shaker placed on top.

In Christian worship bread has a particular significance:

- As part of the service of holy communion, a loaf of bread is broken, shared and eaten to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- Spiced and fruited hot cross buns (so called because of the cross across the top) are eaten in Lent, the period leading up to Easter.
- At Harvest Festival a loaf in the shape of a sheaf of corn is often a focal part of the decoration of the church.



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	