



The St Mary's News

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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A note from Mr Cox,

Hello and welcome to St Mary's news.

We're BACK!

A big thank you to everyone for getting the children ready for this week. It has been just brilliant to have the school full again and to hear the noise of children working hard and enjoying themselves.

During the first week, it has been very important to settle the children back into the way of school life. The teachers have been spending time ensuring that routines are back in place and that the children remember the rules in school. It has also been an important time to re-establish friendships.

We have adjusted our class routines to allow the children time to settle back in. Tasks have been broken down more and additional breaks in learning have been put in. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be assessing where the children are and finding out how much learning has been missed, if any at all. This will then enable us to support the children to ensure their learning is not affected long term. This assessment information, along with how well they have settled back in, will form part of the parent meetings in two weeks' time.

In school, we now have a portable defibrillator and I would like to thank the PTA for funding this and making it happen. Currently it is in school but I am looking at getting it located outside to allow the community use of it, should it be needed. I would also like to thank Mr Tim Smart for donating bags of compost for the school garden.

Thank you to everyone for the outstanding effort that went into the home learning. I know that all the staff really appreciated the effort that went in at home to ensure that the children kept learning during lockdown.

A big change that is happening this term at St Mary's is the way that we use our library. We have purchased a system called Accelerated Reader. The reason for this purchase is to better support the individual reading of all children. This system will be in operation from Year 2 upwards as Reception and Year 1 will carry on with their SoundsWrite books which is linked to our phonics scheme. One of the main advantages of Accelerated reader is that it allows the children to complete an online comprehension quiz about the book they have just read. This information can then be used by staff to support children if they are finding certain aspects of reading difficult.

Celebrating Success at St Mary's

This week's stars are:

Rafe Tanner - Reception
Cooper Redman-Richards – Year 1
Imogen Holland – Year 2
Mog Hill – Year 3
Logan Curtis – Year 4
Freddie Thorne – Year 5
Ben Rogers – Year 6



This week's winning house:

Samborne

With 6404 points

Well done



To raise money for comic relief the school is having a mufti day on Friday 19th March and is also asking the children to wear something red if they can.



Thank you to our local Constabulary for providing the barriers outside the school, which are helping us to keep everyone safe at drop off and pick up.

A few reminders

Thank you to everyone for the effort that went into making all the children look really smart on the first week back. I appreciate in these challenging times it can be difficult to get hold of school uniform especially as everyone had the same short window to get ready.

Just a few items I noticed going around classes: Some children are not in black shoes and hair bands should be blue, black or white. Also, long hair needs to be kept out of the way, especially for P.E. lessons, as it is safer.

School development Updates:

This term we will be continuing to develop and strengthen the middle leadership of the school. The focus will be on ensuring that threshold concepts are taught and reached by children in each subject and time will be spent observing the quality of provision in different subjects within the classroom.

We will also be re-establishing the school council and asking the children to support the ongoing changes in their school.

Each subject lead will be looking at their curriculum area and making sure that the Christian values of the school underpin all areas of the curriculum.

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 several 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', 'Keeping active', and 'Employment issues & advice'. At the bottom left, there are logos for '3SG', 'NHS', 'virginicare', and 'Bath & North East Somerset Council' with the tagline 'Improving People's Lives'.

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.

Useful information

Below is a link that will take you to the Government website with information for families to order Lateral Flow Test Kits should you wish to

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Key Stage One – Spare Clothes

If anyone has any spare or no longer used uniform / underwear that they would be willing to donate to the school, this would be very much appreciated.

Date	Event
Friday 19 th March	Comic Relief – Wear mufti / something red and bring a £1 donation
Tuesday 23 rd March	Parents' Evening Appointments 1pm-3:10pm – Year 3 3:30pm-5:30pm – All other year groups
Wednesday 24 th March	Reverend Blewett in school for Collective Worship
Thursday 25 th March	Theatre Company in school – Wizard of Oz production
Thursday 25 th March	Parents' Evening Appointments 4:30pm-7:10pm
Thursday 1 st April	Last day of Term 4
Monday 19 th April	First day of Term 5

TERM DATES 2020-2021

Term	Start	End
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

COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK TOGETHER about Courage

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17

	A	P	P	B	E	D			
F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	F	H
B	I	G	M	I	M	L	R	O	T
U	A	X	N	E	L	E	X	O	S
Q	R	K	I	V	I	J	T	N	A
C	M	B	L	H	S	Z	Y	S	J
P	O	N	S	S	T	R	U	C	K
Y	U	U	M	D	I	V	A	D	L
H	R	I	R	J	N	W	T	D	M
	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E
	C	E	D	O	G	E	N	O	T
		F	A	R	E	E	B		

QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ARMOUR | BOY | DAVID |
| COURAGE | FOREHEAD | GIANT |
| GOLIATH | GOD | ISRAELITE |
| PHILISTINE | SHIELD | SLING |
| SOLDIER | STONE | STRUCK |

