

St Mary's CE Primary School Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and managing to keep your sanity during this really challenging time. Thank you to all our parents/carers for their patience and understanding as we try to amend and adjust our procedures, according to the weekly guidelines being published by the DFE. I hope you understand that we may not always get it right and need the cooperation of all our families to ensure our children and our community remain safe. A huge thank you to those parents/carers who have taken the time and trouble to email, call and talk to us about your concerns directly and also for telling us when you are happy with something! We take complaints and concerns from parents/carers seriously and will try to resolve them as best we can. In order to do this, parents/carers need to follow our complaints procedure and raise any concerns by contacting the school directly. Complaints raised on social media cannot be addressed constructively – many thanks. We have been working hard to keep you updated on policy amendments and practices during the last four weeks and all that information can be found on the school website.

It has been wonderful to have all the children back in school – the building is alive again! Once again, thank you for your support and smiles...! Keep safe and take care.

EARLY YEARS

Pre-school children are settling well into their new environment and have been doing lots of exploring and experimenting within our Investigation Area. We have enjoyed sharing lots of stories together and singing various nursery rhymes, this week the children have been introduced to our Communication puppet, Simone, who was very excited to meet her new Pre-school friends and learn all of their names. Over the coming weeks we will be learning all about autumn and going on an autumn nature hunt. In Nursery, Mrs Harrison and Miss Higson have loved welcoming all the children back and have enjoyed meeting the new starters. This half term, we will be focusing on developing friendships and getting to know and understand our routines within the setting. Our broad topic is 'About us' in which we will learn about our families, friends, feelings and how to be healthy. As the term continues, we will also learn about autumn and the changes that take place in the natural world. Please make sure your child's clothes are all clearly labelled with their name and bring plenty spare clothes in a plastic bag. We look forward to learning more about our new children and will have lots of fun playing and learning in nursery. Children in Preschool and Nursery will receive a letter with their Purple Mash and MS Teams logins. In Reception, the children are settling in well and are beginning to make lots of friends. They are enjoying learning about each other and also all about being healthy. We will be sending out reading books for the first time next week. Please make sure that your child has a book bag ready for their new reading books to be carried home safely. Log in details for Purple Mash are inside the children's reading diaries. These logins can also be used to access MS Teams for home learning. Please see the school website for further instructions - www.st-marys-deane.bolton.sch.uk.

YEAR 1

We just wanted to say we are so proud of our Year 1 children. They have come back to school and coped with all the changes beautifully – well done to everyone! This term we are learning about hot and cold places around the world and the children are enjoying finding out about the Arctic and penguins. In English, we are working hard to compose sentences and trying to hear the sounds in words. We are busy learning our phonics using our new Monster Phonics Scheme. I am sure the children will want to tell you all about it and teach you the actions! We are sending home with our new books and would love to hear how the children are finding them by parents/carers commenting in their home/ school diaries. Thank you for reading at home with your child. The children are pleased to be getting stickers on their Reading Race. In Maths, we are working on addition and subtraction - children could practise their skills at home using toys, sweets, pasta, socks – endless possibilities! Thank you for helping with your child's homework, we know the Microsoft Teams can be tricky at first but we have had some super work – well done! We are really looking forward to working with you and your child this year and doing lots of exciting learning.

YEAR 2

Thank you to all our parents for their support with child's return to school this term. We are so proud of how well the children have settled in to their new classrooms and adapted amazingly to all of the new routines. Most of our learning this half term is a continuation from the Year 1 Summer Curriculum as our children had missed that final term due to Covid-19. The children have worked extremely hard to pick up where they left off and apply their skills independently – well done. Our topic for this half term is Our Local Area. We will be looking at this through a range of fieldwork skills in Geography alongside some research in History. We have also completed a lot of writing linked to Our Local Area and the children have tried their hardest to focus on sentence structure and punctuation. In Science, we are learning all about Animals including Humans and explored a huge variety of animals and classified these using different category types. We also compared a range of animals and looked at how they are different and similar to humans! In Maths, we have picked up where we left off with understanding and using numbers to 100. We have worked with place value, multiplication and money to consolidate the children's application of numbers to 100 which they have extremely well! The children have focused on forming numbers in the correct way alongside counting in twos, fives and tens to speed up their counting process. We can already see lots of progress being made since our children returned to school and we are so proud of them all. Thank you to our parents for all of your support with home learning and homework.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year, the children have really embraced the new school rules and new routines. We have started our 'Great Fire of London' topic and are enjoying learning about the similarity and differences between life in London now and London in 1666. In Maths, we are covering 'Place Value' and practising all the different ways we can represent our hundreds, tens and ones. Our Year 3 book at the moment is George's Marvellous Medicine and our writing topic is 'Instructions' and we are already starting to see we have some great writers with our own marvellous medicine recipes. The Year 3 staff would like to thank all the parents/carers for adopting the new drop off and pick up procedures.

YEAR 4

The children have all settled back into school and have adapted well into the new routines and procedures. This half term, our Topic is 'Our Town Bolton'. We shall be studying its features, both Human and Physical, in Geography as well as learning new skills of map

reading and how to use a compass. In Science, we are learning about the digestive system starting with teeth. Thank you for supporting the children with their learning at home.

YEAR 5

The children have settled well in to Year 5 and they are already producing some excellent work. It is great to see the progress that they have made over such a challenging time and we can't wait to see the progress that they will make this year! This term, we will be looking at the Ancient Egyptians and Rivers in our Topic lessons. We will be producing some lovely artwork involving Hieroglyphics and working hard to produce our very own Egyptian timeline! We are also learning about Space in Science, looking at the different planets in the universe and creating our own fact files! We appreciate all of the work that is being done at home and hope that this continues throughout this difficult time. Well done Year 5.

YEAR 6

We would like to thank all of the children for coming back with such excellent behaviour. It has really helped us in settling into our new routine. They are trying hard to follow the new guidelines in school. We have noticed that a few children are still coming into school with large rucksacks. Due to current circumstances, we would like to remind you that all children need to use a school book bag. They can bring their PE kit in a plastic bag on Friday and it will be returned home on the same day. Thank you to all parents and children that have brought their reading books back from last year. We have issued the children with new books but if you still have some from last year, please send them in with your child. Thank you. We are currently studying the topic of Rainforests. Year 6M have made an excellent start on their non-fiction booklets and 6W have created excellent alternative endings to their class novel 'The Great Kapok Tree' - linking our Topic with English. Finally, The Art of Being Brilliant - Miss Black has invited Year 6 to take part in a library event. We will have a live stream with the library service on Tuesday 13th October, where they will set us a challenge and we will have the day to complete it. At 2pm, we will then return to the live stream where we will be able to share the work we have done. The theme is: the art of being brilliant.

MORE NEWS...

MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2020/WELLBEING AWARD FOR SCHOOLS

Friday October 9th is Mental Health Day. This year, classes will be completing activities around emotional wellbeing, taking care of ourselves and each other, amongst other things. We will soon be taking applications from our Year 5 children who are interested in the role of Wellbeing Ambassador in school. Due to being in bubbles, the role is quite limited at the moment, but I am sure whoever is successful will have excellent ideas to support their peers. We are still working towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools. Our Wellbeing Team have been gathering evidence, completing extra training online and generally brainstorming to make sure that this is a success for us all. Keep checking the Wellbeing section of the school website for progress reports on the Award and for other updates.

POLITE REQUEST...

PICK UP FOR KEY STAGE ONE AND EARLY YEARS

In order to ensure that we get children off the school site safely and with the correct parent/carer, we have implemented a system, at the pedestrian gate, where classes line up down the path. The class teacher will then shout out the name of individual children as they see their parent and make sure that the child leaves safely. This can take a few minutes but we feel it is the safest way to dismiss the children. However, a few parents are calling for their child through the fence, whilst they wait in line, in an attempt to collect them first. This prevents the class being able to hear the class teacher calling their name and causes

confusion and anxiety for the children, who know that they should wait for the teacher to call them. We politely request that parents do not shout for or beckon their child but wait for the class teacher to do that. Many thanks for your cooperation.

SNACK MONEY AND DINNER MONEY COST

Snack is £1.50 per week and Dinner is £9.00 per week

CONTACT DETAILS

If your contact details have changed, please inform the Main Office and they will update your child/children's contact forms. Too many times we have tried to contact parents/carers regarding a poorly child and found the number is no longer in use. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Best wishes,



Diane Jeffries