

**St Mary's CE Primary
School
Newsletter**

March 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

We thought a newsletter at the end of the second week would provide a clearer picture of how it's all going in school now our wonderful children are back. In summary, it's been a lovely couple of weeks – albeit with a lot of handwashing, sanitising and social distancing. The children have settled in beautifully and everything is calm. The children are happy, the staff are happy and hopefully, you (our parents/carers) are happy...no more Remote Learning... Thank you all for working so hard with your children remotely. We appreciated your efforts and because of the work you did in ensuring your child/children were accessing their right to Remote Education, we are finding that most of our children are able to 'pick up' exactly where they 'left off' in December 2020. I'd also like to thank all those parents for bringing their child/children to school every day and on time. Thank you for understanding the importance of your child/children being in school. Thank you too for wearing a mask around the gate areas and trying to keep everyone in our community safe.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff. They are amazing. I know a number of parents have taken the time to email the school with lovely comments – thank you so much for doing that, it means a lot...now let's see what the staff have to tell us about our brilliant children. Take care and stay safe.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

We are so happy to have all our children back in school and they have settled in really well. They are quickly re-establishing their friendships and it is lovely to see them playing together so nicely. Please keep checking Teams each week as we will be posting a weekly bulletin for each class with activities and homework. In Reception the children have been enjoying their PE lessons. Please remember that each child needs a PE kit into school every Friday. In Nursery, we are very happy to welcome in some new starters and are pleased at how well they are settling in. We have recently enjoyed a mini topic about Superheroes which has been very exciting. We have learned about different superpowers and even had a visit from a real superhero! In the next few weeks, we will be learning about spring and looking forward to some fun Easter activities. Please remember to send your child in with a bag of spare clothes in case of any little accidents and encourage your child to try to put on their coat by themselves if they are still struggling with this. Thank you! We are so glad to welcome back our Preschool children, they have settled back in to our daily routine exceptionally well and it has been lovely to see their little faces. The children have enjoyed spending time with their friends, sharing lots of stories such as Not Now Bernard, Penguin and Simon Sock. This week we have been learning to match the different patterned socks together and used pegs to hang them on washing lines. This half term we will be focusing on colour recognition and learning our primary colours through play.

YEAR 1

The children have settled back into the school routine and it was lovely to see them all. We are going to continue with the topics introduced throughout lock down so we will still be looking at Toys for our history. In Science, we are looking at Materials and their properties and are enjoying doing some little experiments. In Art, we are looking at the work of Andy Goldsworthy and linking this in with our work on textiles so the children will be enjoying collecting natural materials and then doing some printing with them. In Maths, we are going to consolidate the work on addition and subtraction and use lots of practical equipment to help with this. In English, we are reading the story of Dogger and Blue Kangaroo for our fiction writing and we will be doing some non-fiction writing about toys. PE days are now Tuesday and Friday for 1J and Tuesday and Wednesday for 1S. Please can the children bring in their reading folders every day and please continue to read at home for 10 minutes each night.

YEAR 2

Thank you to all of the parents for your continued support with children's remote education and return to school this term. The children have all returned with brilliant attitudes towards their learning and we are extremely proud of them all. We have continued to work on the Year 2 curriculum and the children have worked really hard with this – well done! Our topic for this half term is Seaside Study/Famous People. We will be learning all about seaside towns in the UK alongside famous historians from beyond living memory, including: Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Queen Elizabeth II.

Please note – PE days have now changed to:

2A - Tuesday (Indoor) and Wednesday (Outdoor)

2J – Tuesday (Outdoor) and Friday (Indoor)

Please ensure that your child has both an indoor and outdoor PE kit.

YEAR 3

In Year 3 we are really glad to be back at school. Thank you to all those parents who helped their children complete the home learning on Teams during the closure. In Maths, we are working hard with our multiplication and division and for English we are writing our own non-chronological reports. We are looking forward to starting our forces and magnets topic in Science and continuing our Cottonopolis topic that we started during the school closure, for Geography and History.

YEAR 4

Welcome back everyone. It is lovely to see all the children working hard in class. We would like to thank all the children who worked hard on Teams and families for supporting them with their remote education. Year 4 are working hard until Easter on Multiplication and Division and our topic is Spain and Catalonia. PE is on Monday and Thursday. However Monday will be outdoor, so the children will need a tracksuit or joggers and trainers. Homework each week be done remotely on Teams. Please read with your children each day for 10 minutes and complete the assignments on Mathletics and Spelling Shed. Thank you again for your continuing support.

YEAR 5

Year 5 have settled back well in to class. They are already enjoying being back in the company of their friends and we can see that it is having a positive effect of their attitude to learning. We have started our new topic 'The Amazon Rainforest' and we are excited to discover more about its importance to the world. PE is now on a Tuesday and Wednesday

so please ensure that PE kits are brought in on these days. Thank you for all of your support during the home learning.

YEAR 6

First and foremost, can we say a huge thank you to all the parents and children who, in difficult times, consistently completed online learning tasks. Since our return, we have started strong across Maths, Reading and Writing. Performance poetry is going to feature strongly with the Jabberwocky and The Highwaymen in both classes - keep a close eye on twitter for videos - followed by narrative writing. Can we also take this opportunity to remind everyone of having their kits for PE lessons (Thursday) to be in school along with 'homework hand-in' every Wednesday.

SUMMARY OF PE DAYS FOR EACH YEAR GROUP

CLASS/YEAR GROUP	DAY
NURSERY	Monday
RECEPTION	Friday
YEAR 1	Tuesday and Wednesday
YEAR 2A	Tuesday and Wednesday
YEAR 2J	Tuesday and Friday
YEAR 3	Monday and Thursday
YEAR 4	Monday and Thursday
YEAR 5	Tuesday and Wednesday
YEAR 6	Thursday and Friday

MORE INFORMATION!

A MESSAGE FROM MISS HAYES

I am looking forward to coming back to school on Monday and meeting you all in Year 2A! We will have so much fun together and learn lots of new things! I hope you are all as excited as I am! See you all on Monday!

PARENTS EVENING

We will be holding our termly Parents Evenings during the week beginning Monday 29th March 2021. Meetings with your child's/children's class teacher will be held virtually on Teams – just like the Autumn Term 2020. Please complete the form on the attached letter to book your appointment. We look forward to seeing you. Reports will be sent out with your child on Wednesday 31st March 2021.

WELL BEING

A big thank you to the children and Parents/Carers who completed the Stakeholder Evaluation Surveys. We have enjoyed reading your comments and suggestions. This will help us to develop our wellbeing provision in school. We do have lots of plans for when COVID-19 is over and done with, but as you will understand, we have had to rethink a lot of our ideas and put them on hold. We will update you as soon as we have news! On Tuesday 23rd March we will be taking part in a Day of Reflection in school linked with Marie Curie. They have sent schools some fantastic resources and activities for the day. Keep a lookout on the school's Twitter and Facebook page after the 23rd for pictures of the day. If you would like to make a donation to Marie Curie or read about the work they do to support families, you can visit their website on <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil/donate>

Don't forget, if you need any advice or support for your child/children or yourself, you can email myself (Mrs Ash) or Mrs Halliwell on wellbeing@st-marys-deane.bolton.sch.uk or contact the office on 01204 333494 and they will pass the message on. We also have Staff who are members of the Wellbeing team and our Wellbeing Ambassadors who offer wellbeing support in school. Check the website for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM BREAKFAST CLUB

Mrs Perkins and Mrs Reid want to say a big thank you to all the children in breakfast club. They have settled into the new routine and it is lovely to see so many happy faces in the mornings.

POLITE REMINDER

Please can parents/carers ensure they inform school of any changes to their contact numbers and which number they want to be the first contact for any text messages. Also please can parents/carers ensure their child/children are dropped off and collected at the time allocated to their child's/children's year group. It is so important that our children are in school at the right time otherwise they will miss the start of their morning lessons by arriving late.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SPRING TERM 2021

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
WB Monday 29 th March 2021	All Week	Parents Evening Appointments	Teams
Wednesday 31 st March 2021	Home Time	Pupil Reports Sent Out	School
Thursday 1 st April 2021	3.30pm	School Closes for Spring Break	School Gate
Monday 19 th April 2021	8.45am	School Opens for Summer Term 2021 Please adhere to arrival and departure timetable situated on both gates (pedestrian and car park).	School Gate

Best Wishes



Diane Jeffries
Head teacher