



St. Mary's School



7 September 2017

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to all our families – new or returning! Thank you to all the staff for working so hard on Monday (and throughout the holidays) to make sure that their classrooms are welcoming, having popped into all the classes the children seemed happy and secure from the outset. Some children may be finding the new class (or indeed the new school) to be a bit overwhelming, and if they do please let the class teacher know, so that they can keep an eye on them.



Swimming



Year 5 will be going swimming this term. They will have lunch at 11:45, leave school at 12:00 and be back at school by 14:00. Please can you send in your child with their swimming things on **Monday** – it would be useful if they had a pound coin with them for the lockers.

Football – request for help

Mr Hargreaves will be running football training on a Friday after school. He would like to encourage girls to attend training with the intention of running some friendly matches with other schools' girls' teams. However, the staff have all committed to their clubs for this year, and we are looking for a mum who might be prepared to come and support Mr Hargreaves in the training sessions. If you are that mum, with a passion for football, or even a good egg with no clue about football, who will give it a go, please can you pop and see Mr Hargreaves to volunteer.



Apology



Thank you so much to those children who gave me gifts at the end of the school year. Usually I write to you during the holidays to say thank you, but this year my list of whom I was thanking and for what disappeared somewhere en route to Copenhagen. So thank you very much, and I am sorry I haven't written to you. Normal service will be resumed this term (i.e. I won't lose my list!).

Meet the Teacher Evening

Meet the Teacher Evening is on **12 September from 7.00 p.m.** The meeting will start in the Hall, so that we can introduce the new teachers to everyone, and then, rather than a meeting where we hand out a letter, and then read it to you, we WILL hand out a letter, but the opportunity to meet your child's teacher will be informal, so that you can pop round and see more than one teacher if you need to!



Attendance and Punctuality

Children must not be in school before 8:30 in the morning, unless they are at Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club charges are £4:00 per session, and apply regardless of whether or not the children have breakfast. We have some limited spaces available, please pick up an application form from Mrs Chambers or Mrs Turner if you want to make use of this provision.

At the end of last term St Mary's had one of the lowest levels of attendance across the Island, owing to time taken for unauthorised holidays. The Education Welfare and Attendance Officer for the school is reviewing this, and has asked me to make it clear that holidays must not be taken in term time, and absences will only be authorised if they meet the strict criteria below:

- Family emergencies.
- Family celebrations (e.g. needing a Friday afternoon off to fly out for Granny's 90th birthday celebrations at the weekend).
- Holidays that can only be taken at the employer's discretion (e.g. seasonal workers, such as hotel staff, or members of the fire service who have no control over their holidays).

Even in these circumstances, should your child's attendance fall below the expected 96+%, permission is unlikely to be granted in all but the most urgent cases.

School Uniform

We are tightening up on accessories this year. Please make sure that earrings are plain studs (not jewelled or novelty), and please make sure that hair bows are small and blue. Thank you.



Lost Property

There was a tremendous amount of uniform left at the end of the Summer Term – it is all in bags in the corridor to Year 6. I hate the waste –and teachers will be talking to the children about taking things home every afternoon, so that lost property does not build up. There are brand new jumpers, tracksuits, hats, coats, trousers. This is not just a few items – there are around 50 jumpers/cardigans – many from Year 3 and 4 last year.



I have 2 requests:

1. Please come in on Friday after school to look for uniform your child may have left last term, and take it away!
2. Please LABEL your child's current clothing.

If clothing is left on Monday morning, we will assume that it is unwanted, and offer it for people to come and take – anything that is still there by Wednesday will go to Hospice or the Salvation Army bins. We will keep some uniform for the uniform rail available after school on a Friday.

JIGSAW

This half term our whole school JIGSAW focus is Being Me In My World which focuses on developing self-esteem and celebrates each child as an individual and as part of the class.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns come and see your child's class teacher – we are all happy to see you and work with you to make sure that your child has the best year possible.



New School Website

We are very excited to announce that the new school website, which has been designed by Mr Sargent, is now live. As well as lots of useful school information and documents, there is a news section, an events calendar and a link for parents to email the school office. A couple of items, including the calendar, are still “works in progress” but please take a browse: <http://www.stmary.sch.je/>.



Kind regards,

Maria Steg