



# St Mary's School Newsletter

04 October 2019

Dear Parents

It's October already! Where does the time go? Everyone is settling into the new classrooms and we are all into a comfortable routine. I apologise for the trek to get into the building once the school day has started (i.e. all the way round the outside), but the building work is starting to look quite impressive, and it will all be worth it in the end. If you have a few minutes at the



end of the school day to pop in and look out of the doors by the staffroom you can see classrooms going up. This has been a great opportunity for the children to see foundations being laid, concrete being poured and smoothed out, and there have been lots of fascinating diggers and big trucks coming and going.



## **Polite request from Year 2 and 3 teachers**

Please can parents allow the year 2 and 3 children to come in on their own. The corridor is very narrow, and it causes real congestion at drop off time. Give your children a big hug at the gate and let them come in and sort out their own coats, bags and lunch-boxes, etc. They can be independent if they are given the opportunity!

## **Parenting Support**

Philippa Etheridge our school family support worker is hosting a drop in on Wednesday afternoons in the Library. If you want some advice about an issue, or you need to talk to someone because your children are driving you nuts, she's available between 2:30 - 3:30. She's ever so nice, really practical and can point you in the direction of further help if you want it. Please do pop in and see her. You may also meet her outside the school next week as she is coming to school to look at how we can help everyone to arrive punctually in the morning.



## **Trips and visitors**

Year 6 were outstanding representatives of St Mary's School on their trip to France – all the adults commented on what a thoughtful, supportive and brave bunch they were – having a go at everything and enjoying success as they overcame their fears to rock climb, abseil and kayak confidently. They're off to the Skills Show (which last year's Year 6 found excellent) and then the Maritime Museum before half term.



Year 3 have enjoyed their trip to La Hougue Bie last week, and have produced some lovely writing about what they saw, including the newly finished Longhouse.

Year 5 are off to De Quetivel Mill to find out about the islands only working water mill.

Coming up we have a trip to see Black Butter making at the Elms, Dr Robin Catchpole coming to talk about the Solar System, and Finn and Rory McCann coming to work with KS2 on developing resilience and setting yourselves challenging and exciting goals, and Year 4 Egyptian Day! More details on dates below.





### Petanque International

Congratulations to Harry, Lauren and Morgan who represented not only the school, but the island when they played in the September Tournoi against French teams. This year the French were unable to field a junior team, so our intrepid youngsters took on a team of adults and won convincingly! What a great job, you three! Thank you to Mr Sowerby who has run our Petanque club twice a week over the summer term and until now. We are stopping Petanque after next week for the winter and hope to have it up and running again in April. We have had a lot of interest from Years 3 and 4 whose skills are coming on nicely.



### Stand Up To Cancer Dress Down Day

I don't know how many of you saw the fabulous picture of the Critchley ladies in the paper publicising the Stand Up To cancer Fundraising fortnight – they looked amazing! In order to support this excellent cause we will hold a Halloween themed dress down day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

October – the more ghoulish the better! We're asking for £1 per dress down as usual, but if you want to send in additional donations we know the charity would be only too delighted to receive them.



### Parking and Drop off and Pick up

I know parking is tricky around here, however, we do have to have rules and expectations so that children are kept safe. Those of with children in KS 2 will have heard this over and over, and traffic flow is a constant problem for us.

#### Church Car Park:

Some parents are parking over at the Church Car Park, which is fine with the Connetable, as long as you are parking up properly. However, some people are not parking and are just abandoning their cars in the middle of the car park. This results in people being blocked in and additional hazards for pedestrians. If you are using this car park you **MUST** park properly. If there is no room then you need to either drive round the block until there is space, or try the Community Centre Car Park.



#### Front of school:

Please note that children should not be dropped off outside the school gate.

#### Parish Hall Car Park:

There is **NO** parking in the Parish Hall car park at pick up and drop off. This is because it is a pedestrian route for those coming into and leaving school. Although we try to put the cones out in time to remind you, occasionally this doesn't happen. At those times please can you respect the fact that the car park is closed for the safety of our children and park elsewhere.



### Attendance

I have had a number of requests for holiday absence, and although you do need to fill out the authorised leave form please note that I can only give permission for absence in very specific circumstances, and therefore most of your requests will not be granted.

The circumstances are:

- Family illness/ bereavement
- Special events (e.g. ½ a day to travel to Granny's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations)
- Parents who work for organisations (such as the Fire Service) whose holidays are allocated by the employer.



Families who take holidays in term time each year are now referred straight to the Education Welfare Officer. It can be very disconcerting to receive a letter from me refusing you permission, but it's nothing personal, it is just how things have to be!

### Diary Dates

7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 at De Quetivel Mill
11 <sup>th</sup> October	International Day of the Girl (just for your information!)
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Dr Robin Catchpole in Year 5 talking about Space and the Solar System
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Eye tests
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccination
16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> October	Finn and Rory McCann visiting KS2
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 @ Skills Show and then Maritime Museum
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Black butter making
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 4 Egyptian Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parents Evening – 3:15-5:00
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening – 5:00-7:30
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Dress Down Day for Stand Up To Cancer
05 <sup>th</sup> November	Cross Country
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 at The De Putron Challenge
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Jerriais Eisteddfod
20 <sup>th</sup> November	UNCRC (Children's Rights) Anniversary Celebration
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception and Year 6 height and weight check
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity (2.00pm)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Church Carol Service
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1-6 Carol Service (1.30pm)
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception and KS1 Christmas Party
19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS 2 Christmas Party
20 <sup>th</sup> December	TERM ENDS!
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term begins!

Please feel free to come and talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or questions, or you can ring Miss Boydens and make an appointment. We know that your children learn best when we all work together!

Kind regards,

Maria Steg