



# St Mary's School

## Newsletter

13 February 2020

Dear Parents,

Just a reminder that school is closed on 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. The new wing is almost finished, as I write, and we will have lots to do in order to make sure everything is ready for the children on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>. **We will open the school between 2:00 and 3:00p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** so that you can all have a look round if you can get here – we know we have a number of children who can feel quite worried about the unknown and this will give them a chance to see the building without also having to sort out coats and books bags, etc.

### **Drop off and Pick Up**

After half term, the main entrance to the school will revert to the previous main entrance, as Reception will be in their new classroom and won't need the outdoor area to play in.

### **Reception and KS1**

From 25<sup>th</sup> February Reception and KS 1 children park in the Community Centre Car Park and come round the side of the Community Centre (past Silverstar) and into the playground. At 8:30 the children can come into the classroom and get ready for the day. At the end of the day, the children will be dismissed from their classrooms, so please park up and come and wait in the new playground. Please can you make sure that if you double park you respect your fellow parents and get back to your cars promptly, so that everyone can get away smoothly and promptly.

### **KS2**

Children in KS2 should be dropped off outside the Community Centre and walk round through the Parish Hall Car Park to the school entrance. At the end of the day the children will come round to the Community Centre and wait as usual. **KS2 parents should NOT park and wait. If the children are not there when you arrive, please drive round.** I appreciate that it is annoying to have to do so, but the system only works if everyone does their bit.

### **Parent Forum**

I'd like to develop a Parent Forum to come and discuss how we can improve things for the children and for you. This is an elective group – i.e. you don't have to sign up for every meeting, just come along if you're free and interested in what we're talking about. I will be looking for your views as to what to discuss in the future, but for the first meeting I'd like to look at school reports and what you think of the formats, and whether or not they could be altered to be more useful; and also home – learning – do we have enough, too little, enough range, is it being set regularly, etc? How can we help you support your children?

The meeting will be in the Library on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00 a.m. and should last for no more than 30 minutes – we will start promptly and finish promptly as I know people have places to be.

## **PTA**

The first meeting of the PTA will be at school in Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00 p.m. We'll be talking about events this school year, and also making sure that we have all the GDPR boxes ticked. Thank you to everyone who is prepared to come out and develop the PTA – this is such a great opportunity for home-school relationships to flourish.

## **Draughts Club**

I am looking for a volunteer to oversee a small group of Year 1 children playing a game called Memory Chess at Draughts Club. It's a game that can have up to 5 players, and it's good for developing resilience, being a good loser/winner, etc. It would be nice for children in Year 1 to have the opportunity to be involved. I've sent out a letter to Year 2 and 3 parents about Draughts Club – it will take place on a Tuesday after school. There are limited places, as I have 5 draughts sets, so initially I'll be looking for 10 children. This may grow over time. The club will run from 3:00 till 4:00 – children can bring along an extra snack. The club will be run jointly by me and Mrs Jones.

## **Diary Dates**

- 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Forum 9:00 a.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> March - PTA meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> March - Swimathon
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Mothers' Day Secrets Room
- 1<sup>st</sup> April - Open Afternoon – the school will be open for parents to come and share their children's learning with them from 2:00 -3:45p.m. and then 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

News from the classrooms...!

## **Reception**

We have had a very busy half term in Reception. We have been learning about polar animals, investigating the best materials to make fake snow and exploring ice. We also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, making egg box models of dragons and identifying which birds came to our outdoor area to use our yummy bird feeders. We have worked hard to develop our reading and writing skills, and we have learnt about addition and subtraction and 3D shapes in maths. We are very excited to move in to our fabulous new classroom for more exciting learning experiences next half term. Have a super half term break!



## **Year 1**

We have had a very busy half term in Year 1. We have continued our topic on seasons and collected data about the types of weather we have seen so far this winter. We have also



done some science experiments and learnt how to group our data in to a table and a graph. In maths we have worked hard learning our numbers beyond 20 as well as looking in to how many tens and ones a 2-digit number has. In English, we have written a number of stories whilst reading the book 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' and looking at rhyming and

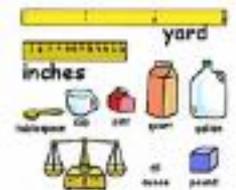
poetry. We have worked collaboratively with Year 4 and Year 6 in our artwork as well as our computing and Geography.

We are looking forward to moving in to our new classroom after half term and beginning our new topic based on 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' where we will be visiting the Recycling Centre and working hard on a design and technology project using lots of different resources.



### Year 2

Year 2 have had a great half term and enjoyed learning about changes through time. We had an amazing time at the Museum and the children found out lots about how toys and houses have changed. In DT we have been exploring how to make our own picture books with moving parts and after half term we will be continuing with this project. The class have enjoyed focusing on Traction Man in English and units of measure in Maths. We are all very excited about moving into our new classroom after half term and can't wait for another half term of exciting learning.

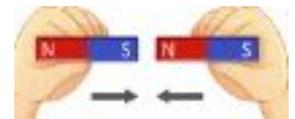


### Year 3



Year 3 have had a wonderful half term reading the Ted Hughes classic, The Iron Man. We have written diaries, stories and instructions based on the book. The children have made fabulous 3D models of the Iron Man for our home learning challenge. I hope you all enjoyed working together on this project. We have also investigated magnets and objects that are attracted or not attracted to them.

We are all looking forward to moving to a new classroom next half term, while our current classroom is renovated. Have a fantastic and well-earned half term!



### Year 4

In Year 4 we have had a busy half term with our learning, particularly enjoying our PE sessions of swimming and cricket. We have had fun learning about medical pioneers through history and writing our own Kennings and Haiku poems. Next half term we will be continuing with swimming and are looking forward to getting our teeth stuck into a new class novel linked to our topic, Mountains.



### Year 5

Year 5 have been really engaged in the 'Earth & Space' topic this term. I hope they have been telling parents lots of exciting information. The class completed their Space poem entries for the competition which will be sent off this week. We will let you know as soon as we hear back. The children have also been busy creating 3D 'Aliens in Underpants' this term. They designed their aliens in sketchbooks and then used mod-roc to create their sculpture. They have now painted their designs - I am sure you are already aware from the colourful faces and hands that have greeted you after school this week!



We can now look forward to our next topic which is 'North & South America'. We are looking forward to moving classrooms so we can utilise the outdoor space (and windows!) to start some planting and growing projects.





## Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and engaging half term. They have really enjoyed their diverse planet topic and have worked collaboratively to produce some super displays on the world's biomes. These will be moving to our new classroom after half term. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their work on Macbeth and next half term will be making their own animated versions of this using 'Scratch' on the computers. The children have been working hard on their 500 word stories; we are going to give these one more re-draft after half term. If your child wants to submit their story, they will need to do this at home using the 500 words website. Next half term we will be learning about the occupation of Jersey.

