

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school this week. Being able to invite you all into our playground at the same time and return to a sense of normality again is a real breath of fresh air. We have been blown away by the way our pupils have settled into their new classes and their positivity about the year ahead. In fact, we were so impressed that we decided that every child in the school deserved a 'Great Start Award Certificate'. We hope that your child has found somewhere at home to display it with pride! We wish you all an enjoyable weekend and look forward to doing it all again on Monday.

Mrs Lawlor and Mrs Quinn

Celebrating birthdays with

a book!



It has been great to see that some children have already been celebrating their birthday by gifting their class a book! A year three pupil told me:

"I felt really happy when I gave the book to my class. I chose the book as I love the pictures; it's my favourite!"

Rights Respecting

Class Charters



Each class has been creating a Class Charter. A charter is an agreement that all children and adults make with each other. Every class charter places the rights of children at its core. We will share some pictures of our completed charters with you next week!

To find out more about the rights of the child please have a look at the UNICEF A summary of the [UN Convention on the rights of a child.](#)

Collective Worship



This week during Collective Worship, we have been talking about the things adults in our school are working together to achieve this year:

- Helping children to aim high
- Helping children to know more and remember more.
- To ensure all children become successful and avid readers.
- Getting messages to parents in a clear and effective way.
- Knowing children well so they feel confident about their next steps in learning.
- Enabling all leaders to become experts in their subject areas and to continue doing a great job.

Meet the teacher

We will be contacting you soon to let you know about our 'Meet the teacher' dates. This will be an opportunity for you to come into school and find out about your child's learning this year. Please look out for these dates via parent mail along with whole school event dates coming up in the next weekly newsletter.



We are readers!

Becoming a fluent and confident reader opens many doors for pupils. It is our aim that every child at St Mary's will have a solid foundation in early reading skills which they will build upon year by year as they move through our school.

Every school has a duty to provide a robust and rigorous approach to teaching phonics and early reading. After trialling the teaching approaches of a systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme called Read, Write, Inc, we decided that this was the programme we wanted to commit to. However, resourcing an SSP programme is highly expensive and so we began to look into how this could be achieved.

During the summer holidays we made an application to a local English Hub for funding and we are very excited to tell you that we have received confirmation that our application was successful! We will receive a total of £6'000. This funding will now enable us to purchase the complete phonics programme which will be used across our entire EYFS and KS1 phases. Some pupils in KS2 who require phonics teaching will also benefit from this scheme.

We will keep you updated over the next few weeks as to our next steps in the implementation of our new phonics scheme. In the meantime, if you are interested to know more about Read, Write, Inc then please have a look at the [website](#) for more information.

Parent Volunteers

We are beginning to invite more visitors into school.

If you have a passion for learning and have time to spare, please do get in touch with a member of the Senior leadership team to see how you can help.



Social Media

St Mary's are planning to get online and we want to know which social media platform you use the most: Twitter or Facebook.

Please enter our poll [here](#).



Medical conditions

A polite reminder that if your child has a medical condition to please ensure that you bring any prescribed medication to the school office team asap.

Term dates 2021-2022

Term and INSET dates you can find them [here](#) on our website.

Concerns and Complaints procedures

There may be a time that you feel dissatisfied as a stakeholder of our school community. We want to ensure that we deal with your concern in an effective, supportive and timely manner. In the first instance, we ask that you always speak to our member of our team if you are concerned about something. There is a difference between raising a concern and making a complaint. It is recognised that taking informal concerns seriously at an early stage will reduce the number that develop into formal complaints. You can find our complaints policy [here](#).

KMS Music Clubs

Opportunities for beginners

Hook Ukulele Group

learn to play the ukulele from scratch
Hook Music Centre
Saturday 9.30-10.15

Kingston Youth Percussion Ensemble

learn to play orchestral percussion
instruments
Kingston Music Centre
Tuesday 17.45-18.45

Hook Music Project

creative music-making sessions
using percussion and voices
Hook Music Centre
Saturday 11.45-12.30

UpBeat

inspired by the hit musical 'Stomp' to play
samba rhythms on household objects
Coombe Music Centre
Wednesday 17.30-18.30



For students aged 8-13 who want to make music with others

Develop your musicianship in a fun and relaxed environment; no experience needed

KMS Music Clubs

For more information on KMS Music Clubs, please find the PDF that accompanied this newsletter in parent mail.



Reminders

Daily drop off and collection times

- 8:30am:** Top gate opens
- 8:45am:** Learning begins!
- 3:15pm:** Top gate opens
- 3:20pm:** End of the school day

P.E days

- Nursery:** Tuesday (no PE kit needed for nursery)
 - Reception:** Tuesday and Thursday
 - Year 1:** Wednesday and Thursday
 - Year 2:** Tuesday and Thursday
 - Year 3:** Wednesday and Friday
 - Year 4:** Wednesday and Friday
 - Year 5:** Wednesday and Friday
 - Year 6:** Tuesday and Friday
- Please remember to bring your child into school in their P.E kits on their designated P.E day.*

Year 6 Ambassadors

Each year at St Mary's the year 6 children undertake additional roles of responsibility which contribute to the wider life of our school. Mrs Hadley and her class have been thinking about the roles which they feel will make a positive impact in our school. The children will be sharing their ideas with Mrs Lawlor next week, so they can prepare for the important roles ahead. We will update you when we have more details.

Feedback



Thank you to all parents who have shared feedback about our newsletters. If you haven't already, you can do so here:

[LEAVE FEEDBACK HERE](#)

Safeguarding at St Mary's

If you are concerned about a pupil at our school, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Our designated safeguarding lead is **Mrs Clare Quinn**. Other members of our Safeguarding team are:

- Emmeline Lawlor - Headteacher**
- Carol Johnson - SENDCo**
- Hannah Sullivan - Nursery and year 3 Support Assistant**