



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great walking into classrooms these last two weeks to find out what our wonderful pupils have been learning. I have been really impressed with the transition of our Year 1 pupils who have really settled down well into our KS1 routines and expectations, following the great example of our Year 2 pupils. Two prospective parents both commented to me about the great working atmosphere in the classrooms and the behaviour of the children. This has always been a feature of our school and is the reason I go into every class with visitors – our current building does not reflect the quality of our school, our pupils do.

New Building Project

Talking of buildings, some parents have asked how the process is going. I can confirm that we will be getting a brand new building – an L shaped two storey size- which will provide us with the space for two forms of intake. As from September 2018, our Reception intake will move from 45 to 60 places. The building work is due to start in the Summer Term 2018 and completed for the Autumn Term 2019. However, we still have planning and contracts to be signed and like every building project, start and finish dates can vary.

KS1 Fence

Over the summer we installed a new fence around the KS1 playground area. The reasons behind this was to ease the transition for our Reception pupils moving into Year 1 in order to give them a clearly defined area having been used to the EYFS garden. In addition, it helps provide a barrier for parents and toddlers in order to not enter the playground before the end of the school day.

Diary Dates

Attached are our current diary dates for the academic year so far. Please note that these can be subject to change beyond our control. For example if there is a funeral in the Parish, we may have to change a class mass etc. We will do our best to give you as much notice of any changes, but sometimes this is not always possible.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are currently looking for a Parent Governor to join our Governing Body. Please do read the attached letter and reflect on whether your particular skills could help our school.

SENCO

As you were informed in the Summer Term, Miss Cassidy-Jones is our acting SENCO this term. We have recruited a new SENCO from January and we will be able to share further details once all of the suitable checks and paperwork have been completed. If your child is on our SEN register and you have any concerns, please do contact Miss Cassidy-Jones.

Teaching Assistants and Intervention

We are always looking to improve our practice and this half term we are trialling using our teaching assistants in a different way in KS1 and KS2, based on recent research. Miss Cassidy-Jones has written a letter explaining in more depth what is happening. If this involves your child, please do not panic (!) as we are targeting all ability ranges. We are proposing targeting in the region of 1 in 3 pupils with some form of intervention or enrichment in the school week.

School Association

A lot has been mentioned about the problem that we have as parents raising children in a 'me first' society as opposed to an 'others first' society. The first School Association meeting last night reminded me how fortunate we are to have parents wanting to help our school and every child, not just their own. The school budget simply can't afford what we ask the School Association to purchase so we really appreciate the hard work that goes in to fund raising for all of our pupils and our future pupils. The next event is our Quiz Night on October 7th – please check your diaries if you are free.

Communication you may have missed over the last two weeks sent via Schoolcomms:

Newsletter No.1/Quiz Night/After school football/Class masses for this term/
Bags2school reminders/Flu Immunization/Computer Clubs/KS1 & KS2 Information
Sessions/Staff Association Meeting/Cleaner Vacancy/Curriculum Letters

Finally it was great to see some of our former pupils in year 8 at St Mary's visit UKS2 pupils for a Q&A session with Mr Celano. They all really enjoyed their visit back and shared their experiences about transitioning from our school to St Mary's. Well done to our pupils for their sensible and thought provoking questions.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Peter Coldwell
Headteacher