

ST MARYCHURCH C.E. PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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'Doing our very best and caring for each other'

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

1. Staff

We are pleased to welcome Mrs March back to us after her maternity leave. Owing to Mrs Williams' continuing illness, we are pleased to say that Miss Kirman will continue to teach 1KL with Mrs Lockett. Mrs March is working in R AW with Miss Cundy (3 days/2days) thus keeping continuity as Miss Cundy worked there for the first half of term. Mrs Williams hopes to be back with us next term.

2. Football team:

Well done to our Y6 boys' team for winning their league and play off final at Plainmoor recently. At Plainmoor they beat Galmpton 2-0 in a very conclusive way with good quality playing. It was clear that the links with local clubs are paying off. It was good for me to see a team I was supporting win for a change – I've been through a whole football season seeing my team – Southampton – win only once!

3. Attendance

We have begun a weekly award for class attendance by having an award for the class with the best attendance each week. It is vital that every child attends as much as possible as poor attendance does affect learning progress and, subsequently, life chances. Attendance levels here are variable, but I am seeing a greater proportion of 92% plus attendance here - the national average being 96% attendance.

4. Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property, available for checking every day in the Hall. There will be a Lost Property **display on Tuesday 9th June at 3.00pm in the school hall** after which any unnamed property will be removed from the site.

5. Worship - update

There has been a need for us to change the programme of Worship over the past year, to put us in line with the expectations of a Church Voluntary Aided school. This has meant trialling the first year of a four year scheme, supported by the Diocese of Exeter's Education team. We now have an up to date set of worship resources. We have also revised the set of worship songs and hymns – including the opportunity to project words and film in our Hall via our new digital projector. The children have needed time to get used to this format – together with the changes of time – and only since Christmas have we been able to put child led acts of worship back on the agenda.

As a result of this, it has not been possible this year to include class assemblies back on the agenda – especially as we have to deliver acts of worship rather than assemblies in a church school. However, I am very keen to have children leading worship and give parents the opportunity to see their child's class leading it. This is something I'm very used to. Hopefully, next year we will bring in a revised set of opportunities to invite parents.

We also have a monthly prayer cycle, covering as many parts of our school community we can think of – including parents.

Weekly Worship themes are advertised for parents to notice.

There are also plans to make sure that younger children have more opportunities to worship at church, appropriate to their age and development.

6. Nursery

We have permission from Torbay Council to increase the hours available for free nursery education from 12.5 to 15 hours a week from September 2009. We have recently asked current and the next group of parents about extending the provision further by:

- Starting from 7.45am (approx) to cover parents starting work at 8am by extending our current Breakfast Club
- Providing lunch for morning and afternoon session children
- Providing childcare after school
- Giving parents the opportunity to purchase additional nursery hours as parents needs determine.

All of the above would be at a cost.

As the results are analysed we would also like to make available the opportunity to extend after school provision. We are not yet sure how that might work – either by an After School Club or the increased use of our linked excellent Childminder group.

This good news about us being in the first group of nurseries to be allowed to offer 15 hours a week is balanced by the change in funding ruling from April 2010 which will change us being funded to staff a 26 place nursery to being funded only on places filled. We need to attract a few more children – which I am very pleased to take up the challenge for. We have a lovely nursery with well qualified staff with good facilities – and intend to offer families a more flexible choice of hours to meet their needs.

If you know of parents looking for nursery places from September – tell them about our proposals and get them to contact us!! Parents are the best advert for schools and nurseries.

7. Hot weather

As we are enjoying the hot weather at the moment a few important reminders for you:

- All children need a baseball cap or sun hat to wear during the day. Please ensure all hats and caps are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- A high factor sunscreen should be applied to your child before they come to school each day. We are not able to administer sun cream to children but if your child is particularly sensitive to the sun you can send some, named, in their bag for them to re-apply before lunchtime break. We are not allowed to let children share sun cream, please ensure they know this.
- It is essential for healthy bodies and minds that children have access to water frequently during the day. We encourage the children to bring a filled water bottle, with a sports top, so that they can drink regularly. Water only please! This is particularly important during the hot weather. Please label the bottle and ensure that it is cleaned on a daily basis.

8. Forthcoming events

Please find attached an updated Events List.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mantell
Headteacher



ST MARYCHURCH C OF E (VA) PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

CALENDAR SUMMER TERM 2009 (Version #2)

Date	Event	More info
Thursday 4 June 09	Nursery Closed re. Local Elections	Main school not affected.
Friday 5 June 09 - Monday 8 June 09	PGL- Barton Hall Residential Visit (Y6)	Year 6 residential weekend visit to Barton Hall.
Tuesday 9 June 09 08:55	MASS: Upper Juniors	Please take your child to the church for registration.
Thursday 11 June 09	Brazilian Football Tournament	Y5/6 Boys' Football Team. After school.
Friday 12 June 09 17:00 - 21:30	School Friends: Treasure Hunt	Please see School Friends letter for details. Times are approximate.
Tuesday 16 June 09 08:55	MASS: Lower Juniors	Please take your child to the church for registration.
Friday 19 June 09	Junior Girls Football Festival	Details to follow.
Friday 19 June 09 14:15	Autistic Society Sponsored Walk	on the school field.
Tuesday 23 June 09 08:55	MASS: Upper Juniors	Please take your child to the church for registration.
Friday 26 June 09	Class & Team Group Photographs	
Tuesday 30 June 09 08:55	MASS: Lower Juniors	Please take your child to the church for registration.
Wednesday 1 July 09	Nursery Sports Day	On the school field. NAM Session 10.45am Session 2.30pm
Thursday 2 July 09	Year 6 Induction Day at Torbay Secondary Schools	
Thursday 2 July 09 13:45	Infant Sports Day	All Reception & KS1 children. Parents and family members are welcome!
Friday 3 July 09	Y6 Westlands Induction 2nd Day	For Westlands only.
Tuesday 7 July 09 08:55	MASS: Upper Juniors	Please take your child to the church for registration.
Thursday 9 July 09 13:45	Junior Sports Day	All Junior children. Parents and family members are welcome!
Friday 10 July 09	School Reports Out	School Reports sent out.
Friday 10 July 09	School Friends: Summer Fayre	To be confirmed closer to the time.
Tuesday 14 July 09	Bugsy Malone Performance (Upper Juniors)	Afternoon Performance for Parents- details to be advised.
Wednesday 15 July 09 19:00	Bugsy Malone Performance (Upper Juniors)	Evening Performance for Parents - details to be advised.

Date	Event	More info
Thursday 16 July 09 08:55	MASS: Whole School (Y6 Leavers Church Service)	All Children from Reception to Year 6 to attend. Please take your child to the church for registration.
Thursday 16 July 09 10:30	Y6 Record of Achievement (R.O.A) Presentation	Timing is approximate.
Friday 17 July 09	Summer Term Ends	Last day of Summer Term. End of academic year.
Thursday 3 September 09	First Day of New School Year	

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES

2008/2009

SUMMER TERM 2009

Last day of Term: Friday 17th July

2009/2010 – agreed

AUTUMN TERM 2009

First day of term: Thursday 3rd September
 Half Term holiday: Friday 23rd to Friday 30th October inclusive
 Last day of term: Friday 18th December

SPRING TERM 2010

First day of term: Tuesday 5th January
 Half term holiday: Monday 15th to Friday 19th February inclusive
 Last day of term: Thursday 1st April

SUMMER TERM 2010

First day: Monday 19th April
 Bank holiday: Monday 3rd May
 Half term holiday: Monday 30th May to Friday 4th June inclusive
 Last day of Term: Tuesday 20th July