

# ST MARYCHURCH C.E. PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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*Our Christian values:*

*Joy*

*Kindness*

*Love*

*Peace*

*'Doing our very best and caring for each other'*

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now the weather is improving and the snow well behind us (hopefully) may I thank parents and staff for their co-operation over the difficulties of that period. We tried to keep open as much as possible – I don't ever like closing a school, but it wasn't possible to do so on the first day. We staffed the phones as early as we could. Torbay schools worked hard at communicating with the media – and I was very grateful to Heart FM locally for their support. In such situations we will update our website as quickly as possible. There is a review of the management of the process led by Torbay and all of us need to learn from the lessons of this period. I repeat, it is the aim of this school to remain open if at all possible during such events.

### **Attendance during the bad weather.**

I am awaiting final advice over whether non attendance during bad weather can be marked as authorised or unauthorised absences. The geography of this area is difficult, particularly for those living on roads at the tops of slopes.

### **1. ATTENDANCE**

Please make sure attendance is as high as possible. We are aiming at the 94/95% level, set by the Government. Failure to reach these is taken into account by Ofsted in our next inspection.

The following information is interesting.

Days absent	Percentage of school year missed	Overall attendance
5 days (1 week)	2.6%	97.4%
10 days (2 weeks)	5.2%	94.8%
15 days (3 weeks)	7.9%	92.1 %
20 days (4 weeks)	10.5 %	89.5 %

Figures from Torbay LA.

So, from this, that is no more than 10 days (authorised or unauthorised) in any school year from any child is acceptable if we are to reach our target. Please help us.

### **2. BICYCLE PARKING**

Following a school bid we have been given a grant by Sustrans (a Government Department) for a bicycle parking facility for 20 bikes. This will be put in place during half term.

In order to ensure health and safety we will be offering permission to cycle to children who have completed their bikeability programme and whose parents allow them to cycle, to a maximum of 20 bikes, storage is at parents responsibility. As it is open storage, we won't be able to lock the facility, so cycle locks will be needed. Further details will be available after half term.

### **3. NURSERY**

Morning and lunchtime numbers are very popular, but we still have spaces for afternoon sessions. Please see the office if you are interested – and please pass the message on!

### **4. RECEPTION INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2010**

If you know of any parent not placed for September or wishing to change their preference to St Marychurch, please ask them to contact the office as soon as possible.

### **5. MATHS – GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

We are holding a meeting for parents to launch this booklet on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm.

### **6. HOME ACCESS PROGRAMME FOR ICT**

This is a Government scheme to allow many families to get access to a computer and internet connection to get online at home.

If you are a low income family and in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one year's internet access.

There is a Helpline: **0333 2001004** to get an application form.

Or if you can get access online visit <http://web01.homeaccess.org.uk>

### **7. THANKS! SHELTER BOX HAITI APPEAL**

I am delighted to announce that our Mufti Day last Friday raised £435.85, almost enough to purchase a Shelter Box. Needless to say, the money has already been sent on. Many thanks for this wonderful achievement.

### **8. CLASS LED WORSHIP**

Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to our class led worship this term. The dates are:-

Class 2TH Monday 8th February at 2.45pm

Class 1RL Friday, 12th February at 2.45pm

### **9. COLLECTING YOUR CHILD AT THE END OF THE DAY**

Thank you to the majority of parents/carers who do collect their child promptly from school after the end of the day at 3.15pm or after a school run club. There are however, some who persistently leave their child in school until 3.30pm or later without previously gaining permission. We know that in extreme circumstances, and with a prior phonecall to explain, you may need to be a little late collecting your child but, on a normal school day, all children should be collected as close to 3.15pm as possible. Thank you.

### **10. PARKING**

May I take the opportunity again to urge parents, carers and visitors to the school to please park safely and with consideration for others at all times - particularly with regard to pedestrians, and also our neighbours' access to their premises.

Chilcote Close Car Park -Torbay Council allows our parents to use the Chilcote Close Car Park, provided the following terms and conditions are met:

Free parking will only be provided for parents and guardians of children attending St Marychurch CE Primary & Nursery School, between 8.40 am and 9.10 am and between 3.00 pm and 3.30 pm on school days, provided a valid permit is displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle. If parents need a longer period, i.e. to talk with teachers or other parents, they must purchase a ticket from the machine. Failure to comply with these arrangements will result in an excess charge notice being served.

**Permits can be obtained from the school office.**

### **11. 10<sup>TH</sup> TORBAY BEAVERS**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Torbay Beavers have asked us to promote their Colony. They welcome boys and girls aged between 6-8 every Tuesday from 17.45 until 19.00. If you have any interest in registering your child for this please contact [torbaybeavers@hotmail.com](mailto:torbaybeavers@hotmail.com) for more details.

### **12. SCHOOL CALENDAR**

An updated school calendar is attached for your information. You can also find these dates on our school website [www.st-marychurch-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-marychurch-primary.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Philip Mantell  
Headteacher

