



# St Mary's CE Primary Academy

Living, Learning and Growing Together

Newsletter 1

10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful, enjoyable summer and that you and your children are ready for the term ahead. It was lovely to welcome back lots of smiling faces this week and children have already shown great eagerness and enthusiasm in class.

This week, we welcomed Miss O'Mahony to the team as she began her role leading our new Nursery Provision, Little Acorns. Miss O'Mahony really enjoyed her first week and her warm and caring manner shone through with the children. We look forward to welcoming back our new Little Acorns next week.

We also welcomed two new PE and Sports Providers this week. Mr Berryman, a PE teacher from The Woodroffe School will be working with us each Thursday afternoon delivering PE to Key Stage Two and developing some Sports Leadership awards for our oldest pupils. He will also be working with our play leaders to encourage them to take ownership of playtime through organising games. Alongside this, we will be working with the sports provider 'Primary Stars' and Mr Jarad will be teaching on a Wednesday in Orchard Class and Pippin on a Thursday. Primary Stars visit many of the schools in the MAT and so we hope this will provide lots of opportunity for inter-school competitions.

Miss Taylor also began teaching in Orchard Class this Friday. Miss Taylor will be working in Orchard Class every Friday and will be picking up a larger teaching commitment after half term. Until half term, Miss Smith will increase her teaching commitment with the support of Mr Jarad and Mr Berryman.

## Polite Reminders

We were so impressed this week with how smart the children looked as they returned to school but please do support us in keeping expectations high by ensuring that children continue to attend school in school uniform and more details are on our website. Please also be aware that children should be bringing only water into school in their class water bottle.

## Physical Education

Children should arrive at school in their PE kit on days when they have PE. Orchard Class have PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Pippin Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr Jarad has asked that children wear trainers rather than daps for PE, as trainers are much better for foot support and grip.

## Class News

This week children in Orchard really enjoyed writing letters to themselves in the future. We began by thinking about our advice for ourselves, dreams and goals and aspirations. The children wrote some very thoughtful letters and produced some wonderful self portraits which we look forward to celebrating and putting on display. We hope the children will read these letters in the years to come.



Children in Pippin Class have had a fantastic first week. Miss Chestney has been blown away by how well the children have settled in. This week, Pippin Class have particularly been focusing on showing respect and have established their own set of class rules. Children have explored their emotions this week through 'The Colour Monster' story. They have also started their English learning this week, making observational paintings and using their senses to

come up with descriptions. Every single child in Pippin has achieved gold on our Positive Relationships and Behaviour chart this week, which is such a fantastic start to the year. Well done Pippin!

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### Attendance—Every Day Counts!

We would like to encourage parents to ensure their children attend school every day. Attending school on a regular basis is the key to your child doing well at school and will set them up with good habits for later life and the working world. Punctuality is also important, as school data shows a link between poor attendance and underachievement. Missing 10 minutes of school a day is the same as missing two weeks over the year. Arriving late can also impact the class and lessons that have begun. Please make every effort to bring your child to school regularly and on time. Thank you for your support with this.

### IMPORTANT: ParentPay—parent letters, booking school meals and Breakfast/After School Club

We have had some teething problems with ParentPay, which we are working hard on resolving! If you have not activated your ParentPay account, please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received an activation email, please let the office know who can arrange for it to be resent to you. You are now able to book your child's meals with 14 days notice. If you need to book meals for the next 14 days, please contact the office who will be able to do this on your behalf. You should also be able to book Breakfast and After School Clubs.

As ever, please contact Mrs Aspinall with any problems or queries, and she will do her best to assist you!

Parent letters will now be sent out via the ParentPay platform, but for the short term, will also be sent out directly via email until all accounts have been activated and any issues resolved. Newsletters and parent letters will also be published on the school website.

### Breakfast and After School Clubs and Activities

Breakfast Club is running every morning from 8-8.30 and After School Club is running on Monday-Thursday from 3.15-4.30. This is now available to book via ParentPay.

After School Sports for Key Stage 2 will be running from next Wednesday with Mr Jarad, please contact the office to book your child in. This will be free of charge to parents.

Circuits will also be running on Friday mornings from next week. We look forward to increasing our fitness levels again! Please could children arrive at 7.55 ready to start promptly at 8am.

### Forest School

Forest school sessions began this week with Mrs Aspinall. The children explored their Forest School areas with games including an Un-Nature trail and a blindfold sensory activity. We look forward to sharing more Forest School activities with you this term, when the children will be taking part in sessions each week. Please make sure that your child has a pair of wellies or waterproof shoes and a waterproof coat in school for outdoor activities.



### Golden Apples

Congratulations to Matilda and Maisie who were awarded the first Golden Apples of the year as part of our Positive Relationships and Behaviour code in school.

### Harvest Celebration 2021

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration which will be held at 10 am. on Sunday 12th September at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe. Produce and other gifts for the Chard Foodbank may be left in the church from today, Friday 10th September.

### PFA AGM

The PFA will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 22nd September in the Community Room at Thorncombe Village Hall at 2pm. All parents are warmly invited to attend. Thank you! - Amy Clarke (Chair of PFA)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Kind Regards,

Miss Smith and the team at St Mary's.