



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter 2

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems like time has flown since opening our doors to all of the children last week. It has been really lovely to see so many eager and smiling faces each morning and we have continued to be really impressed with the children's positive attitudes towards their learning as we ease gently towards a more regular timetable.

For the past two weeks, we have been prioritising wellbeing and re-establishing socialisation amongst the children. Children in each class have had opportunities to re-engage with their friends and take part in discussions and activities designed to encourage children to share their feelings about the past few months. Children have enjoyed many creative sessions, some of which have been based in the outdoors and each class has also enjoyed regular PE lessons within our wonderful grounds.

Alongside this, we have been undertaking some gentle assessments to establish children's current attainment in core subjects. This information will help us in our forward planning and allow us to address gaps that the children may have.

Within the next few weeks, we would like to hold virtual parent meetings with each of you to discuss your child and any questions or concerns you may have after such a long time away. We will be organising these shortly and we will then inform you of how to book your slot. This meeting will really help us to support each child in school and allow us to share with you, ways that you can help to support at home. As always if you have any questions, queries or concerns before this, please do share these with us so that we can help.

We look forward to meeting with you all soon.



Water bottles

Unfortunately, at the moment, due to Covid restrictions and our water cooler being out of action, children are unable to fill up water bottles throughout the day. Therefore, if necessary, please encourage your child to bring two water bottles to school with them to get them through the day especially when they will be undertaking PE.

Uniform

We have been really impressed with how smart and well organised children have been each morning since our return. Please help us to keep standards high by ensuring your child always attends school in full uniform unless it is a PE day. On PE day, please also ensure your child's PE kit adheres to our school policy. Please remember hair accessories should only be worn if they are in line with the school colours. Thank you for your understanding.

Sport

Miss Smith will be running a circuits based fitness club each Thursday and Friday morning from 8am. Please contact the office if you would like to participate.

Office Cover

Please note that the office will not be staffed on Wednesdays. Urgent messages can be left on the school answerphone, which will be checked at break, lunchtime and in the afternoon. The office email inbox will not be read on this day, but you can still contact teachers directly on orchardclassteacher@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk pippinclassteacher@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk and headofschool@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk

You can, of course, continue to contact the office by phone or email as usual throughout the rest of the week.

COVID-19/Coughs and colds

Alongside this newsletter we have sent out an information sheet from Public Health Dorset. This outlines the difference between symptoms of coughs and colds and COVID-19 which may prove useful as we move into the colder season when illnesses tend to occur more often. Please do contact us if you have any worries about symptoms.

Best wishes,

Miss Smith