



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter 30

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome some more children back to school this week. The sound of laughter and the sight of smiling faces has made all the planning for re-opening very worthwhile. If your child has returned to school recently, we hope they have enjoyed attending. All children have adapted wonderfully to the new routines and are taking them very seriously so that everyone is safe. This has been great to see.



We understand that for some of you, the prospect of other children not returning until at least September may be very disheartening this week. We appreciate the impact that the current situation may be having on children's mental health due to the isolation, disconnection from school and particularly being unable to see and interact with friends in the same way. If your child is struggling, remember we are here to support you. We are always happy to ring home and talk to your child to provide some reassurance so please do contact us if you believe this may be helpful in these extra-ordinary times. Please do also visit our website which contains links to support mental wellbeing and services which you may find useful.

We will of course continue to provide weekly home learning activities for the children and we hope children are enjoying these. Thank you for all you are doing to support your children. We look forward to seeing everyone again when it is safe to do so.

Stationery supplies

If your child requires any stationery items or additional resources to help with their online learning, please do contact the office so that Mrs Aspinall can arrange a time for you to collect any items you might need.

Staffing

I am thrilled to announce that this week, we have successfully recruited a full time teacher for Pippin Class after undertaking two rounds of interviews. Miss Merryn Chestney will join the team here at St Mary's in September 2020 and we look forward to welcoming her to our school. Next week, we will write to Pippin parents in further detail but for now here is a little introduction from Miss Chestney herself.



Thorncombe Community Swimming Pool Covid-19 Update

The village pool was in off-season when lockdown commenced. As of 21st May, the government regulations clearly state that all swimming pools, including outdoor, private and school pools, are to remain closed until early in July at least. Following a preliminary risk assessment, the Pool Committee have decided not to open the community pool for summer 2020 since the enclosed facility presents multiple possibilities for infection and ensuring social distancing is not deemed practical. This closure is expected to remain in place for the entire 2020 swim season (end May to early Oct) although the situation will be reassessed every 5/6 weeks to coincide with beginning and end of the summer holidays (late Jul and early Sep). – Catherine Davis, Chair of Pool Committee

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Miss Smith