



St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter 18

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done once again to everyone for completing another week of remote learning. It has been lovely to continue to check in with the children through the weekly class check-ins and we have had lots of fun, playing games and reading stories with everyone as part of these.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme is 'Express Yourself'. Therefore, we would like to invite everyone to come to their class check-in with this in mind. Children may like to bring an item that they feel expresses something about themselves to 'show and share' with the class or children may wish to attend wearing something that shows an aspect of their personality or their likes and dislikes. We hope to then explore the theme of 'Express Yourself' through our class check-in. Miss Chestney has put together a sheet of ideas that you might like to look at, which has been sent alongside this newsletter. If anyone would like to donate to the Children's Mental Health Week cause, Miss Chestney has also set up a justgiving page – please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Stmarys-dress-to-impress>

Academy Conversion Update

As you will know, we have been in a Management Partnership with Marshwood Primary Academy since September 2018. From next week, we will formally join the Acorn Multi Academy Trust and our new school name will be Thorncombe St Mary's Primary Academy. This will be an exciting new chapter for Thorncombe St Mary's and will give the children and staff more opportunities to work collaboratively with other schools and share expertise.

One imminent change at Thorncombe St Mary's will be the IT infrastructure. From next week, children in school will have access to new Chromebooks as opposed to the laptops which have previously been used. Because of this, today you will have been invited to new Google Classrooms. These new classrooms are linked to new email accounts which the children and staff will be issued with. We need to make these new changes now as these Chromebooks can only be accessed through using the new logins.

We apologise for the inconvenience that we know may be caused by having to begin to work on a new Google Classroom. Once you have accepted the invitation, children need to access the new classroom from Monday. If children do however have work to finish, they can still access this remotely through their old log ins. This will then be taken down at half term.

Over the weekend, we would appreciate it if you could log in to your child's new [acornacademy.org](https://www.acornacademy.org) account and make sure that you can access work set for the 1st February. If you encounter any problems, please do contact us and Mrs Aspinall will be available in the office to answer any questions.

Thank you for your support with this.

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

Please do remember that this weekend, the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch is taking place if you wish to take part. Please visit the RSPB website for further information:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

Our very best wishes to you all

Miss Smith and the Staff at St Mary's