

St Mary's News



September 6th 2012

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Welcome Back

I hope everybody had a great holiday and is, like us, looking forward to a new and exciting school year at St Mary's.

At the end of last year we said farewell to Kyra Sheppard and Caroline Walsh. At the start of this year we welcome Lilli Landau, who will be teaching Year 5.

Yebi Aynalem, who has worked in school for three years, will also be working in the Foundation Stage to cover Caroline Walsh's role until we appoint her permanent replacement.

School Lunches

During the summer holiday the Local Authority, Westminster, increased the cost of school lunches. This is now £1.85 per day, an increase of 5p. This works out at £9.25 per week and £68.45 for this Term (4th September to 26th October). Please note that children should not swap from school lunch to a packed lunch, or vice versa, during a

school Term. If you do want to change, please do this at the end of the Term to start in the following Term.

Welcome Meeting for New Parents

We are holding a welcome meeting for new parents on Tuesday, 11th September from 9 o'clock, in the school hall. The meeting will last about half an hour and is organised by our Learning Mentor (Sheelagh Leith), our English as an Additional Language Coordinator (Sonia Walker) and our 'Friends of St Mary's Association.' There will be refreshments.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Just a reminder that these clubs are available to parents for a small charge. The *Breakfast Club* runs from 8.00 am until school starts.

The *After School Club* runs from 3.15 until 4.45.

See Lesley Baillie for more

information about Breakfast Club, or Mrs Leith.

For the After School Club, talk to Isabel Arnold.

Alternatively, ask someone in the Office and we'll point you in the right direction!

School Journey

Our Year 6 pupils are off to Marchant's Hill, near Hindhead in Surrey, next week for five days. This is always a really good start to the year for them and they always have a good time as well as developing their cooperative skills, their independence and their confidence.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting

On Thursday next week we are holding a meeting for the parents of Year 6 children at 3.30 in the ICT room to talk through the process for secondary transfer. A separate letter for Year 6 parents will go out today. We also encourage Year 5 parents to come along to this meeting too. The secondary schools hold open days over the next month and this is

Welcome Back!
Two pages today.



Peter Hadfield

a good opportunity for Year 5 parents to see what's out there and have a 'heads up' before it all gets a bit urgent next year.

More Reminders

- **The school day** starts at 9.00am. All children should be in the playground just before 9 o'clock. Children should stay with the adult who brought them to school until they are passed into the care of the class teacher. Obviously this does not apply to older children who come to school on their own!
- **Outside Toilets.** Please note that the outside toilets beside the entrance to the school building near Year 4 are for the use of **children only**.
- **Mobile 'Phones.** Just a reminder that we do not allow children to bring mobile 'phones to school except in exceptional circumstances. If you believe this applies to your child talk to a member of the office staff.
- **Toys and electronic games/ devices** (such as mp3 players) are not allowed in school.
- **School Uniform.** We are still in Summer uniform at the moment: white polo shirts, grey trousers (or mid-blue gingham check dresses for the girls) and school sweatshirts. Please remember that trainers are not allowed. It's hard to tell what is and what is not a trainer these days - the manufacturers are making shoes that look like trainers and plain trainers that look

more like shoes. As a simple guide, if it's plain black with no eye-catching logo it's a shoe, if it's branded with the obvious logo of a company best known for making trainers it's a trainer! This probably isn't very helpful!

- **Holidays.** There is a holiday list on our school website (address at the top of page 1) and there's a small, wallet sized card with this newsletter that lists our holiday dates for you to keep handy. We do not authorise any holiday that falls outside of our normal dates, so please book flights well ahead and keep them within the school holidays. Our attendance for last school year was **95.6%**, which is higher than the Westminster average and higher than national averages.
Thank you!

Wyndham Place

We had a resident of Wyndham Place come into school at the end of last term who was annoyed at what (he felt) was children from St Mary's playing inconsiderately in this space. This is not something that I have ever witnessed, nor has it ever been mentioned to me before. I promised the gentleman that I would ask parents, through this newsletter, to ensure children playing in any public space are playing considerately; even though I'm sure it is not necessary for me to mention this.

Greenhouse

I'd like to say a big thank you to the Friends Association for the

new greenhouse! This is now sitting on the garden beside the entrance to the car park and, although it's not quite ready for the children yet, we're looking forward to making good use of it this year. It was more complicated than we'd anticipated, mainly because of the tree beside it and needing to get approval to trim it and sort out a couple of awkwardly placed roots!

Building Work

Over the holiday we refurbished the children's toilets upstairs and the corridor outside Year 5 and Year 6. There are a few details still to sort out (including one missing cubicle door!) but we're pleased with the work and hope the children are pleased too.

School Dates

- Monday 10th September: Year 6 go on School Journey
- Monday 17th September: whole class meetings for all parents this week.
- Tuesday 25th September: School photographer - individual Photographs
- Thursday, 11th October: Church service - 9.30 - at St Mary's Church for Years 1-6 (Harvest)
- Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th October: Parent and Teacher meetings
- Friday 26th October: Last day of Term 1. *Please collect children at 1.15.*
- Monday, 5th November: First day of Term 2