

St Mary's News

April 29th 2013

www.stmarys.bryanston.net

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Art Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who came along to the exhibition last week; we had lots of encouraging comments, written and verbal, from many parents and visitors. The children and staff worked really hard in the two weeks leading up to Easter to produce the work and then again in the days after the holiday to get it ready for display.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Sonia Bell, our Art Coordinator who pulled the whole thing together at the beginning of last week. She was also supported by several parents and 'friends' who worked really hard, especially on the Wednesday, to mount and display all of the work. We really appreciated their support - thank you.



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you, everyone, who managed to return their parent questionnaire last week. A special thank you to those parents who found the time to write some feedback or comments. We still need to collate and look properly at your comments, but the 'headline' numbers from the survey are below.

1. **97%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child enjoys school.
2. **100%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school keeps their child safe.
3. **97%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.
4. **100%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that teaching is good at St Mary's.

5. **95%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child was making enough progress.
6. **97%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that we kept them informed about their child's progress.
7. **95%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the school helped them to support their child's learning.
8. **92%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that St Mary's met their child's individual needs.
9. **97%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that we took account of their suggestions and concerns.
10. **97%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that St Mary's was led and managed effectively.
11. **100%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that, overall, they were happy with their child's experience at St Mary's.

We will address anything that you raised in your comments as much as we can. The survey was obviously anonymous, so it's impossible to match the questionnaire to individual families (though a few people did put their name on the questionnaire) and so, if there is anything you want to discuss that's specific to your child, please see the class teacher, Mrs Leith or myself.



There are a dozen or so photos of some of the artwork (a bit random) on our school website (www.stmarys.bryanston.net) as well as the recording of Year 3 reciting John Masefield's 'Cargoes' that was playing in their part of the exhibition.

Lots to read this week!



Peter Hadfield

Measles

'Public Health England' has issued advice to all local authorities regarding the high number of measles cases that have been reported.

Cases of measles are at their highest level for 18 years. The only way to prevent the measles outbreak is to make sure there is a good uptake of the MMR vaccine across all ages.

Parents are advised by the health authorities to make sure their children are fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella with two doses of the MMR vaccine. It's never too late to get vaccinated and parents should make an appointment with their GP to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

For further advice, please see the NHS website: www.nhs.uk

Welcome

We have recently been looking for a teacher to cover Ms Lindsay's maternity absence, which starts next Wednesday, and are pleased that we have found an experienced teacher to look after Year 3.

Naima Jouied starts with us today and will be working alongside Ms Lindsay to ensure a smooth transition for the children.



In the meantime, we all wish Ms Lindsay well and look forward to meeting her new family soon!

Internet Safety

There is a message from Mrs Leith below about keeping your child safe whilst using the Internet.

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, children are very computer literate. They find it very easy to use the latest technologies whether it is the latest mobile phone or the Internet.

In school we manage the safe use of these technologies and our internet connection is filtered by the London Grid for Learning. However, children

*now use a huge range of devices outside school hours. Technologies include home PCs, laptop computers, tablets, smartphones and internet enabled game machines (X-Box, etc); if these aren't in **your** home, they could be at a friend's home. All have the possibility of accessing the web from almost anywhere.*

Specific media that are becoming more commonly used for communication by children outside of schools hours include email, instant messaging, chat rooms, mobile-camera phones, websites/blogs managed by children and social networking sites (such as "Facebook", "Twitter," "MySpace" or "Bebo"). Most of this is 'safe' and has the potential to enrich our lives, if used carefully and thoughtfully. However, you need to be aware that a child's safety maybe compromised when people, nearly always strangers, of malicious intent use the Internet to make contact with a child.

To keep your child safe, the following basic guidelines may help:

- *Have the computer in an 'open' area at home*
- *Know what your child is doing online - sounds simple but often isn't!*
- *Use Webcams very carefully, if at all.*
- *Talk to your child regularly about the dangers of communicating with strangers online*
- *There are age restrictions for Facebook, etc - there are reasons for this - If you really are happy for them to be on these sites, then we would recommend that you monitor them very carefully and set some clear ground rules-
1. **KNOW** who the 'friends' they are making actually are; these should only be people they/you actually know - family abroad, school pals etc.
2. **PRIVACY** settings set at their highest. The default settings on social media sites are often set low to encourage maximum information sharing, so change them!*

3. **PHOTOS** Be wary of posting **any** personal images. Strangers can access these.

4. **Cyber-BULLYING.** If nasty or unsuitable messages or images start to appear, talk with you child about what to do; save the messages, print them off if possible and we might be able to help you here in school - let us know.

There are some great online resources and advice for parents: search for 'thinkuknow' and 'ceops' for two of them that are funded by government. These sites can also point you towards software to help you manage your children's internet use safely - including some free resources. If you want any more help from us, please let us know.

*Yours sincerely,
Mrs Sheelagh Leith,
Learning Mentor*

What's On This Week

- Wednesday: Year 5 and Year 6 to the library
- Thursday: last day to accept a Reception Class place for September
- Thursday: Class Photos
- Thursday: 'Dr Bike' cycle repair session in the playground: 3—5pm
- Friday: Y1 'Deckchair Dreams' project - last workshop.
- Friday: Year 1 assembly at 2.30

School Dates

- Thursday, 2nd May: Class Photographs
- Monday, 6th may: Bank Holiday
- Week of 13th May: Year 6 SATs Week
- Thursday, 23rd May: Church Service at 9.30 (in church)
- Friday, 24th May: Last day of Term 5 (please collect children at 1.15)
- **TUESDAY**, 4th June: First day of Term 6