



St Mary's News

Friday 1st October 2021

Autumn 2

Dear Parents and Carers

September has been a great month in school despite the wet and windy weather this week.

Outside the children have been enjoying the new play equipment as well as playing organized games in the MUGA and running the Daily Kilometre. We had 21 volunteers from Year 5 to become Playground Activity Leaders (PALs) and they have impressed us with their imaginative games for Years 1 and 2. We are also training up Peer Mentors from Year 5 and 6 to act as role models for our younger children. Mrs Kale gives more details about this in this newsletter.

A huge thank you to all the parents who responded to the Diocesan Questionnaire last week and the willing group of parents who spoke to the inspectors. Their report will be published in two weeks and we will share their findings with parents as soon as we can after that time. The children they spoke to were honest and supportive and we feel very proud of the way they behaved.

We are delighted to announce that our Facebook and Twitter accounts are now live and we are also updating our website. If you would like to share any good news about your child's learning, please let us know by commenting. Our Open Days for new parents this year have been fixed for the morning of 15th October and the afternoon of 15th November so please spread the word.

It was wonderful to welcome so many grandparents into school this afternoon to celebrate their contribution to family life. They are the unsung heroes of many families and this afternoon was an opportunity to say thank you. I will end with Pope Benedict's beautiful prayer for grandparents from 2014:

*Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!*

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Mr Edgington,
Headteacher

Contact Information

Please ensure you inform the school office if you have changed address, changed mobile/home phone number or have alternative emergency contact numbers. This ensures that in the event of your child falling ill or if we need to contact you at short notice we have up-to-date contact information. Thank you.

Peer Mentors

We are bringing Peer Mentors to St Mary's! This will be a small group of Year 5 and 6 children who will complete 8 weeks of special training to enable them to work with and support our younger children in getting used to school life, making friends, growing their confidence and self-esteem and talking about their worries. Our Peer Mentors will be great role models for the younger children and will need to fill out an application form to be considered for a place. This initiative will be hugely rewarding not only for the younger children that may be struggling with something, but also for our Peer Mentors, giving them a sense of responsibility and learning valuable new skills!

PALs

Our Play Activity Leaders have now received their training certificates and are up and running at lunch times. Yesterday was kicked off by Lucia, Cerys, Maisi, Beatrice and Eva who did a wonderful job organising an obstacle course and some dancing for KS1 children. The rest of the PALs are signed up to a rota and are all on duty once a week. We also have some new play equipment on order for them to help make their activities even more fun!



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- [FACEBOOK.COM/STMARYSBOGNORREGIS](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbognorregis)
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EYFS Welcome Liturgy

We had a special welcome liturgy led by Father Chris from Our Lady of Sorrows Church. He read the children a story from the Bible which tells of how Jesus loves us all- adults and children alike. He taught us a very special prayer we can remember easily by holding up a finger for each of the 5 words. "God loves me very much!" The children sat and listened very carefully and we were very pleased so many Mummies, Daddies and Grandparents were able to join us for this special time.



Bognor Regis Library

Opening Times

Monday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
 Tuesday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
 Wednesday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
 Thursday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
 Friday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
 Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
 Sunday - Closed

P.E. at St Mary's

We are delighted to have provided the children of St Mary's the opportunity for a range of new facilities this academic year. The MUGA, daily mile track and clamber frame have been very popular and in full use during break and lunch times. Children in Year 5 have already attended training to become PALs (Playtime Activity Leaders) providing exciting games and activities for many children in KS1 at lunchtimes.

With the return of the Sussex Schools Partnership following COVID, we are excited to see the return of fixtures and a range of sporting events throughout the school year. After-school clubs have returned with Brighton & Hove Football Club and Multi-sports coming in for years 1, 2, 3 and 4. We will be looking to add Year 5/6 Football and Netball club in the coming weeks.

The teachers have been busy undergoing training for RealPE which will enhance our PE curriculum with the children's social, cognitive, personal, health and fitness, physical and creative development at the forefront of every lesson. Through the use of personal challenges, we hope this will engage every child.



ST. MARY'S AFTER SCHOOL HUB

Open Monday - Friday,
term time only
from 3pm - 5pm

Priced at £5.00 per child
per hour

Children play together in a familiar environment and are cared for by St Mary's teaching assistants.

The £5 fee includes snacks and a drink.

Please phone the office team
 to find out more: 01243 822287