



# St Mary's News

Friday 9th September 2022

Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers

The first weeks of term have flown by and the children are already in very good routines. They look very smart in their uniforms and school shoes and are getting used to the new routines for PE. Thank you for your support in giving the children pride in their uniform.

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our new Early Years children this week to St Mary's. The new children have shown great resilience and we have been impressed by their start to 'big school'. We are blessed with small classes in Early Years and this year the classes are 22 or 23 children. Work is already underway on the new Early Years play equipment and this should all be completed by the end of the month.

A huge thank you to our Chair of Governors, Tony Lucas, who has spent the summer holidays managing the resurfacing and drainage works on the front playground. He has also been instrumental in working with Channel 4 to enable the *Great British Dig* to happen. He works tirelessly for the school and we are very grateful for his support. The dig is progressing well and the children have made us very proud with their behaviour and attitudes.

Today's Mass was a real celebration of the school and parish working together and you will hear more about that at Mass on Sunday which is Education Sunday. The children sang and responded beautifully and it was a very spiritual start to the year - several parishioners commented on the beautiful behaviour. Thank you to all of our parent helpers who gave up time to walk us over and braved the changeable weather this week.

The children in key stage 2 are completing 'star reading assessments' as part of *Accelerated Reader*. This will give us a range of books at a specific level suited to your child. Your child will then read a book at that level and take a quiz when they have finished it. Children in Early Years and key stage 1 will also have a book to read each day at the appropriate level. Please encourage them to read regularly at home and bring their book back to school each day.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Mr Edgington, Headteacher.



## Spirituality Garden

Ania Claveria, a governor and parent, has organized for this beautiful statue of Mother Mary to be transported from Poland for our Spirituality Garden. The RE Council will work with Mrs Claveria to design a grotto and the statue will be in place as a focus for prayer and meditation as soon as possible. Many thanks to the parishes in England and Poland as well as the Claveria family for providing donations and transport.

## Welcome to children who have joined us this year

A very warm welcome to our new Early Years children and their families.

We also offer a warm welcome to our new pupils in other year groups who have just transferred to us and to one pupil who has returned after leaving us last year. Joshua, Yasmin, Marion and Teo you and your families are very welcome. We hope you are settling in to your new classes and enjoying making new friends.

## Queen Elizabeth II

Following the sad news of her passing, the children have prayed for the Queen at Mass this morning.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family at this time.



## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

### Autumn Term

Term starts on Thursday 1st September 2022 / Term ends on Friday 16th December 2022

**INSET days** – Thursday 1st September 2022 and Monday 31st October 2022

Half term – Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October 2022

### Spring Term

Term starts on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 / Term ends on Friday 31st March 2023

**INSET days** – Thursday 9th February 2023 and Friday 10th February 2023

Half term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023

### Summer Term

Term starts on Monday 17th April 2023 / Term ends on Friday 21st July 2023

**INSET days** – Monday 19th June 2023

Half term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023

### Bognor Regis Library

#### Opening Times

Monday 9:30 am - 7:00 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

### 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.

### SMASH - After School Club

#### Available between 3.15pm and 5.15 pm Monday - Friday

If you require help with childcare after school, we currently have availability every day of the week. You can arrange for your child(ren) to attend SMASH for a day here or there, or a set routine for five days a week. Sessions must be booked using ParentMail, at a cost of £5 per child per hour which includes a snack and drink. Please speak to a member of the office team if you would like to find out more.

### School Uniform

Please remember all children must wear smart school uniform, unless wearing 'home' clothes due to birthday celebrations, or advised otherwise by their teacher. Jo-Jo Bows are not permitted to be worn. Appropriate black school shoes must be worn; trainers may only be worn during PE lessons. All coloured hair braids must be removed by week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure all skirts and pinafore dresses are **navy blue**.

No extreme hairstyles please. No hair colouring, or gelled/spiked styles. Hair should not be shaved, or have a design cut or shaved into the hair.

Stud earrings are permitted and must be covered with microporous tape during PE. This tape is available to purchase from most chemists. Children may wear their crucifix necklaces, however, no bracelets, charity bangles or friendship bracelets are permitted.

Children may wear trainers or plimsolls for PE.