

ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Autumn 1 - 15th September 2023

FROM MR EDGINGTON

It has been wonderful returning to St Mary's this week and seeing the children and staff. Thank you so much for all your kind thoughts and prayers. My sight is almost back to normal and I am hoping to be in school full time next week except Wednesdays when I am at St Richard's Catholic Primary School in Chichester. A huge thank you to Mrs Beaven and Mrs Lockwood for leading the school in my absence.

Today you will be receiving knowledge organisers, information about the curriculum and the dates list for the term ahead. We share these with parents so you can see what the children are learning and talk to the children about their day. It would be wonderful if you could support their learning by visiting Bognor Library so the children could read around their topics. The opening times are as follows:

Monday 9:30 am–6 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am–6 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am–6 pm

Thursday 9:30 am–6 pm

Friday 9:30 am–6 pm

Saturday 9:30 am–5 pm

Sunday Closed

As you can see the teachers have chosen some interesting topics and trips and the children are very excited about their learning. Our three curriculum intents – Catholic, Coastal and International – are threaded through the topics in every phase so the children can link their learning this year to their previous learning. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their topic to Bignor Roman Villa this week and they were brimming with facts and figures about mosaics and villas. We are lucky to have Fishbourne Roman villa not far away too which could be an interesting half-term visit if you were looking that far ahead! Not to be outdone, Years 1 and 2 are off to Arundel Castle next week and there is plenty of talk of knights and dragons amongst the children. Today the school joined together for the start of term Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows which was a lovely occasion. It is wonderful to see so many children from St Mary's at the 11am Mass on Sundays and attending their own special children's liturgy. Finally, a big thank you for your support of our uniform policy. The children look very smart and are taking a pride in their uniform.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Mr Edgington
Headteacher



NEW SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

Election fever is gripping the school this week and we have been voting for our new House Captains.

They all made persuasive speeches (pictured above) and have fantastic ideas to develop their roles and encourage good behaviour. Good luck to all of them!

Elections for School Council will take place this week and the first meeting will be in a few weeks' time. I am so impressed that so many children have put themselves forward for these roles.





Reminder!

Children who come to school on bikes and scooters should put them away once they arrive and not ride them around the playground. It gets very busy in the mornings and we wouldn't want anyone to get hurt. Thank you for your support in this!

Could you be our new Learning Support Assistant?

FTE Grade 3 £20,812 / FTE Grade 4 £21,575 pro rata

Hours of employment:

LSA – 26.75 hours per week – Monday to Thursday 8.15am – 3pm & Friday 8.15am – 12pm, term time only.

Temporary contract initially for 1 year.

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant with experience of working with children with additional needs.

The application form, job description and person specification can be found online via

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/>

Please use your application and personal statement to reflect your personality, experience and interest in the job.



MESSAGES FROM FR CHRIS

Curious about faith? Here's an invitation to come to our forthcoming Alpha course where you can meet parishioners, other church-goers and some people of no faith. Come along and bring a friend. Everyone is from a different background, but all are in some way, curious...

'Alpha' (<https://alpha.org/>) is run nationwide in a large number of church and non-denominational communities. At its core is a series of videos looking into the basics of Christian faith presented in a modern, lively and engaging manner, including interviews with personalities such as Bear Grylls. The videos brilliantly and succinctly highlight the key aspects of faith.

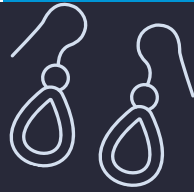
Meetings begin with a simple sit down meal where people can get to know one another and chat socially. Our team will engage with guests to ensure they are all looked after! After the videos we break into smaller groups to discuss the key messages, ask awkward questions and debate associated issues. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Come and join our first session on Wednesday 27th September at 7 pm in the Parish Centre. The programme is completely free of charge. If you come for the first and early sessions, there is no pressure to sign up for more. But it would help to let us know if you're thinking of coming along so that we know numbers for catering. Contact alphabognor@gmail.com - we look forward to seeing you!

Faith in the family

Each year we invite families who have expressed an interest in finding out how we support them in helping children grow in faith and prepare for the Sacraments to be part of a Parenting for Faith course as the first step towards sacramental preparation. There will be an Information Evening on Tues 19th Sept, 7pm – 9pm, Parish Centre, for families who would like to know more. The course will then run on Tuesday evenings, 7pm – 9pm, from 10th Oct – 6th Dec (not half-term). All families are welcome to these meetings, regardless of whether you're thinking of sacramental preparation for children this year or in years to come. One mother who took part in a course previously said she wished she'd done it earlier! We look forward to seeing you and supporting you and your children in your journey of faith.

Jewellery



We have noticed a number of children in school wearing hoop or droplet style earrings. Please note that for safety reasons, children should only be wearing small stud earrings. Please can you also ensure that children are not wearing wrist bands to school. We thank you for your support in this matter.

#BeBrave

Youth Mental Health Day on 19th September encourages understanding and discussion of mental health in young people, enabling them to live happy and healthy lives all year round. Each year, the day aims to get young people, and those who support them, talking about how to improve mental health.

This year's Youth Mental Health Day theme is #BeBrave. Whether it's building confidence in facing difficult situations, building social confidence through learning to work together on team tasks, or learning to have the courage to fail by doing something new no matter what the outcome, being brave can mean something different to everyone.

Keep an eye on our social media channels next week for more information and ideas to help you support your child's mental health.

BIGNOR ROMAN VILLA



Year 3 / 4
visited Bignor
Roman Villa on
Tuesday