

### Welcome



Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you all had a restful break over Easter and are ready for the last 2 terms of school. The Summer Term is always the busiest with sports days, SATS, residentials, reports and transfer day. We once again have some new children joining our school and I would like to welcome them and their families to St Mary's family.

### Collective Worship

Our new value for this term is forgiveness. We began the term looking at the bible story of 'The Unforgiving Servant' and have discussed the importance of forgiveness to ensure inner peace. We have also celebrated 'Earth Day' and looked at how we can help our planet to be a happier and healthier one.



### Spirituality in Collective Worship

In the last newsletter I wrote about how we have been working on spirituality in school. We have introduced a 'reflection' time into our worship to ensure we have time to think about ourselves, others, the beauty of the world and think beyond the things we can see.



### British Values

Our British Value for this term is 'The Rule of Law.' So far we have looked at why we have rules, who makes the rules and why rules are important.

### Safeguarding

As a school, all staff have safeguarding training every fortnight. We have begun the term looking how to support children who have had childhood trauma. Here are the main points that staff found most helpful:

**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

### What to do 'in the moment'

- **Pause and reflect:** ask yourself what the child's behaviour could be communicating
- **Keep calm:** even if you don't feel calm, act like you are. Try to stop, look down at your shoes, take a deep breath, think about the child's strengths, and then look up and smile
- **Keep your voice low and slow:** 'low' means both low pitched and low volume
- **Use simple, consistent language:** repeat phrases rather than trying to say the same thing in different ways. A child is more likely to take it in this way
- **Try to offer choices:** even if it's just something like "sit here or sit there", it will help the child feel more in control of the situation
- **Give positive reinforcement and space:** remind the child that they're safe, that you're here to support them, and that the problem can be managed. Praise the child for making the right choices. Try to avoid standing too near them
- **Use distractions:** offer the child an opportunity to do something else, such as reading a book, looking out the window, or an activity that helps calm them. A change in adult can also provide a distraction

## 6 things you can do every day

- **Create consistency:** always act the same way towards the child, and set consistent boundaries for what's acceptable behaviour
- **Have a clear routine:** give warnings about changes to the routine and give a visual reminder of the routine to the child
- **Make children feel valued:** show an interest in them, including their strengths and motivators. Smile and welcome them. Think about how you phrase things – for example, if a child shouts in class, say “thank you for sharing, but next time please put your hand up first” rather than “don't shout”
- **Think about what might have happened before you see them:** this helps you anticipate how a child might be feeling and what you might need to do to help them be ready to learn or settle
- **Start every day with a clean slate:** welcome the child back each day with a smile and a positive greeting, and try to avoid punishments that last more than 1 day
- **Never judge:** be aware of your body language and tone of voice, and show the child you're listening

### Parents Evening

Thank you to the 88% of parents who came to parents evening. Thank you also to the parents of the children in Respect class who rearranged their meetings with Mr. Laughton.



### Parent Forum

Thank you to the parents who attended our most recent Parent Forum Meeting. I truly am grateful for parent support with continuing to make improvements to the school. I honestly couldn't do it without you.



If you would like to join the Parent Forum, our next meeting is 20/05/24 at 10.30am. You will be met with a very warm welcome.

### Online safety

We have had several issues with unkind online behaviour outside of school over the last term. We have talked to the children about thinking about the words they use. Would they use unkind words or swear words if there was a parent or teacher standing behind them? Why/why not?



It isn't right to just stop our children from using this technology, technology will be a part of their future – it's about us educating them to make the right choices.

They need to understand why they might be feeling a particular way and how to process what is happening and the steps they 'could' take, be it when gaming or using social media.

We teach our children that they could:

1. Take a screen shot and tell a trusted adult
2. Do not delete or leave the chat
3. Do not delete the app
4. Walk away from the device (leave it on if possible for an adult to see)
5. The most important thing is to speak to a trusted adult and explain the situation. *You are a child and learning how to cope with different life experiences. Some may be good, some may not.*
6. Be prepared to be told how you could have handled it differently - that is why it is important to share so you can learn and if at fault to be able to accept you have made a wrong choice and how to put it right.

Please do follow this up with your children at home and ensure they know how to reach out if they experience this kind of behaviour online.

## **Rubbish**

Up until recently, the children's rubbish was left in their lunch box to ensure parents could see what the children had/hadn't eaten at lunchtime. Parent Forum requested a change to this and now the children are given an opportunity to throw away their rubbish before leaving the lunch hall. If you wish your child to empty their lunchbox before they come home, please ask them to do so when the lunch team give them the opportunity. If not, please ask them to keep their rubbish in their lunch box.



## **St George's Day**

On Tuesday April 23rd, our children recognised St. George's Day; the patron saint of England and Scouting and Guiding in the U.K. Our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Girls Brigade wore their uniforms. It was fantastic to see the effort of so many children representing their service in the community and our own Mrs Burton wearing her Beaver uniform.



It was also delightful to hear parents and visitors talking about how we have restarted an old tradition. As we move forward, we will continue to acknowledge St. George's Day and take pride in who we are, in our local community and the wider world.

## **Year 5 trip to Warwick Castle**

Last week, we went to Warwick Castle. To start off the day we went to learn our battle skills and how to march in a perfect straight line. We also got to hold a real sword.



The next thing we did was learn about the Battle of Hastings. Some of us got to hold shields, bearded axes and a spear and it was so cool!

We also learnt why the war broke out; this was because Edward the Confessor promised William that he could be King when Edward died. Before Edward died, he whispered into Harold's ear that he is now King and so William the Conqueror invaded England.

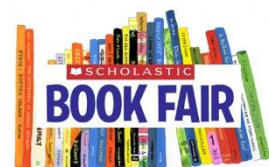
At lunchtime, we climbed the tallest tower and had a magnificent view. We also saw the St. Mary's Church. The stairs went up in a spiral and left our legs aching.

We finished our day by looking in the Castle's rooms and going in the maze. We enjoyed the day at Warwick Castle, it was really fun!

By Joey.

## **Book fair**

Thank you to everyone who visited the Book Fair this week. We have raised £300.00! We look forward to purchasing new books for our school.



## **Children returning after sickness/diarrhoea**

Please remember that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must be at home for 48 hours after.



## **Sports/PE**

### **PE Kit**

As you are aware pupils in Years 1-6 are required to attend school wearing PE kit on their designated PE days.

Earrings must be removed, and long hair tied back, children need to be able to do this themselves or arrive at school prepared.



**Please note** PE kit is a part of our uniform policy and should only include:

- Trainers or plimsolls – these must be appropriate for PE and have grip for indoor & outdoor activity
- Plain white T-shirt (school logo optional)
- Plain sky-blue jumper (school logo optional)
- Plain royal blue or navy shorts
- Plain royal blue or navy leggings or jogging bottoms.

PE is a valued part of our Pupil's education; we thank you for your support in ensuring they are suitably prepared for their physical education. If you are unsure which days your child will be completing their PE lessons, please contact their class teacher.

### **Healthy School Ethos**

With the weather improving the children are looking forward to again accessing the field at lunchtimes and breaktimes.

This additional space will allow us to provide more optional physical activity for children to enjoy at lunchtimes such as football matches, as well as skip to be fit, swing ball and a games area organised by young leaders.

The daily mile will also reconvene on the field instead of being restricted to solely around the playground.

### **School Sports Competitions**

Our aim is to attend a wide variety of inter school competitions and festivals (a minimum of 5 events each term) to allow as opportunities for as many pupils as possible to attend and experience a variety of sports in both competitive and non-competitive environments.

We cannot deny that winning always provides a great feeling and sense of achievement, however more importantly we hope pupils who attend gain a sense of pride, awareness of varying sports and the benefit physical activity provides, increased self-esteem and a desire to continue participating in sport.

We promote our schools and school games values at these events which include Respect, Determination, Honesty, Passion, Self-Belief and Teamwork, our motto is "win, draw or lose we always show our values."

Since our last newsletter we have participated in a further 3 inter school competitions, KS1 Cricket Festival, KS2 Net and Wall Festival and Year 5/6 Netball competition. Providing 'competitive' sporting experiences to a further 32 children.

The KS2 Festival was a non-competitive event, instead the children attending spent the afternoon learning and improving different skills that are required for net and wall sports such as, activities designed to improve speed and agility, watching the flight of a ball and returning it, co-ordination skills by underarm serving a ball over a net and improving their accuracy skills.

The sessions was affected by a fire alarm in the middle of the event. Mrs Patrick and Mrs Cambell were incredibly proud of the St Marys pupils who showed maturity by following instructions to safely and quickly evacuate to the fire assembly point. They then waited patiently and sensibly until we were advised it was safe to return, they represented our school perfectly.

KS1 Cricket, was also a non competitive ran by Northants Steelbacks in the community coaches. Children enjoyed taking part in batting, bowling, throwing and catching and running activities. They had a fantastic morning answering questions well and demonstrated their ability, showing their prior knowledge from PE lessons.

Year 5/6 Netball - Playing in awful cold and wet conditions the girls had a fantastic attitude and persevered. Having not had a vast amount of opportunity to practice we were unsure how we may fair but was determined to do our best and work hard for each other.

The team got off to a flying start and won an impressive three out of 4 games in the league, putting them through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they lost to Meadowside in the semi final, who were evidently a very well drilled team and so narrowly missed out on a place to attend the school games county finals, but all reported they enjoyed the experience and wished to participate again.

### **Forthcoming Competitions**

This term we look forward to attending Year 5/6 Mixed Netball, Year 5/6 Tennis and Year 3/4 Tennis.

Attendance of extra curricular clubs will aid us in selecting/inviting pupils to attend the competitions. We hope this will help to allow pupils to feel more confident, prepared, and knowledgeable when attending competitions.

***PTFA below...***



## PTFA News



Please like, share, and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)

Email: [stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk)

### ❖ **Rags2Riches clothing collection**

- ❖ Next collection is 18<sup>th</sup> June
- ❖ We welcome all clothing & accessories donations into the wheelie bin outside reception

### ❖ **Lending library**

- ❖ Located in the year 5/6 area
- ❖ More donations are welcome of children and adult books
- ❖ More info to follow about the grand opening shortly

### ❖ **Outdoor disco**

- ❖ Provisional date - 14<sup>th</sup> June on the school field
- ❖ Volunteers are very much welcome, particularly any First Aiders! Please contact the PTFA if you are able to help!
- ❖ More info to follow...

### ❖ **Wildlife & garden areas maintenance**

- ❖ If anyone can spare a hand from time to time to help us maintain the wildlife & garden areas please let us know!
- ❖ All & any help welcome...

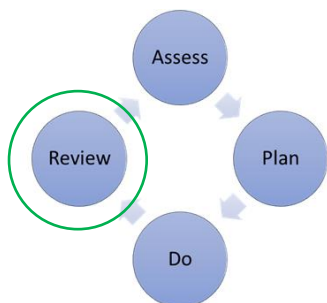
## **Next Meeting - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7pm**

We love to welcome new people, just come to reception.

We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

### **Individual Support Plans**



Later this term, we will be holding review meetings for your children who have Individual Support Plans (ISPs). These meetings focus on what is going well and any further support we feel needs to be put in place, with a particular focus on transition this time around. These are the targets that were set following our review meetings in February. Your child's class teacher will be arranging a date and time with you in the next week. These meetings will take place in the **weeks beginning 6<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with these meetings. We hope you find them as helpful as we do!

These reviews will then inform your child's next ISP which will be sent home on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

### **Spotlight**

At St. Mary's, we have children with a wealth of different needs. This section of the newsletter will highlight a particular area of need and explore how you can help to support your child at home. Each newsletter, we will explore a different area of need. If you have a specific area you would like us to cover, please send your suggestions into the school office.

#### **Spotlight on...Sensory and/or Physical Needs**

Children and young people may require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided.

These disabilities could include a:

- [vision impairment](#)
- [hearing impairment](#)
- [physical difficulty](#)
- [Sensory processing difficulty](#)

#### **Vision Impairment**

Vision impairment is less than perfect [sight, and](#) can range from no sight at all to degrees of useful vision. This could affect distance vision, near vision, fields of vision (the ability to see to the sides) or all three. Vision impairment most commonly affects acuity (ability to see clearly). There are some conditions which produce photophobia (dislike of bright light or glare) or poor vision in low light and some conditions mean that vision can vary in different situations. Children who solely have a refractive error (long sight, short sight or astigmatism) that can be fully corrected with glasses or lenses are not considered to have a visual impairment. Vision impairment amongst children is quite rare.



#### **Hearing Impairment**

Hearing impairment or hearing loss may be temporary or permanent and range in severity from a mild loss to a profound loss. Children with a significant hearing impairment are usually fitted as early as possible with hearing aids. Some children with greater hearing loss may be considered for a cochlear implant.



#### **Physical Difficulty**

Children with a physical disability may have difficulty carrying out some day-to-day activities. Physical disabilities can [include:](#) cerebral palsy, spina bifida and neuro-muscular dystrophies. If a child has a physical disability they will probably be referred to a physiotherapist and occupational therapist who can advise on things like exercises, equipment, guidance on what would be helpful and what to avoid.



## Spotlight on...Sensory and/or Physical Needs

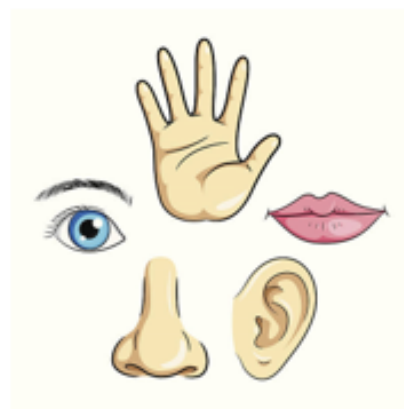
### Sensory Processing Difficulty

Sensory processing is the way that our brain sorts out sensory information so we understand the world and can manage our everyday life whilst learning and interacting with our environment both physically and emotionally.

We all have some sensory processing differences. For example, some of us like very strong tastes and smells and others avoid them.

Our senses help us:

- notice, understand and respond appropriately to what we can see, hear, feel etc.
- Become alert of danger
- remain focussed on task
- influence our ability to be in control of our responses to what is happening around us



For some children and young people their sensory development is delayed, and they struggle to take part in everyday occupations. For example, they are so unsettled by loud noise or overcrowded spaces that they can't go to supermarkets or get on the train at peak times.

Some of the daily activities that may be affected as a result of having sensory processing differences include:

- Hair cutting
- Teeth brushing
- Moving around
- Picky eating
- Leisure Activities
- Having a shower
- Eating and Drinking
- Going to school or college
- Shopping

It is also important to remember that sensory processing challenges are affected by sleep, hunger, time of day and other variables.

### Sensory Strategies

#### Alerting activities

- Trampoline
- Jumping on the spot
- Bouncing on a gym ball
- Running (at the park, school gym hall etc.)
- Wobble cushion on their chair to provide movement
- Fidget toys
- Wiggling or shaking their arms and legs to provide body movement



#### Calming activities

- Deep pressure
- Joint compressions
- Squeezes
- Wall presses – pushing against a wall
- Activities where your child/ young person needs to weight bear through their hands or legs such as tug of war or carrying a bundle of books to a table.

**Sensory Impairment Service:** If a child requires further support, school can make a referral to the Sensory Impairment Service. They provide specialist teachers and support for children and young people with: a hearing impairment, a vision impairment, multi-sensory impairments. When new referrals are received, the initial contact from the team will be by phone or email. More information can be found here:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/specialist-send-support-services/sensory-impairment-service>



## WE OFFER SUPPORT WITH:

- Preparing for and attending meetings
- Writing letters
- Understanding reports
- The EHCP process and reviews
- Appeals and Tribunals
- Admissions and Exclusions
- POST 16 provision
- Working in partnership with schools and the Local Authority to develop positive relationships



## CONTACT DETAILS:

📞 0300 373 2532

@ SENDiass@northnorthants.gov.uk

🌐 iassnorthants.co.uk



@NNCSENDIASS

