

Dear parents



It has been wonderful to welcome you and your children to St Mary's and to the beginning of their school journey. The children have settled really well into their new class. They have engaged well with activities, both in the classroom and in the outside playground. Friendships are forming and new skills are being learnt.

Topic Web – People who help us



Each half term we choose a topic to extend the children's knowledge of the outside world. This half term we are looking at all those people with jobs that involve looking after our community. We hope to have visits from our vicar at St Mary's, the Police and Fire Service. If you work in a caring profession, we would love you to come and talk to the class, if you have half an hour to spare.

Our improved outside area



Over the Summer holidays, a lot of work has been going on in our outside area. A new area with decking and raised beds has been constructed. The children have already been busy watering broccoli and spinach plants.

Read, Write Inc



Reception have been introduced to our systematic program of phonics called Read, Write Inc. Each day they learn to read and write a new sound. Soon they will be starting 'word time', where they learn to blend sounds to read simple words. Don't forget, we will be having a **Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 21st September** in school for all Reception parents. At the workshop, I will be explaining how this phonics system teaches children to become successful readers and writers. I will also be looking at ways you can support your child's literacy skills at home.

Clothes



Please make sure that all items of clothing, especially jumpers, are clearly labelled with your child's name. Also, please send in a bag of spare clothes, in case of accidents. On Wednesdays, children are having a PE lesson, so you can send them to school in trainers on that day.

Home learning



Each Friday, your child will be able to choose a story book for you to read with them at home. Please make sure this picture book is in their school bag the following Friday, so it can be changed. Once the class is attending school full-time, they will also have a homework activity for you to enjoy together over the weekend.

Growth Mindset



At St Mary's we firmly believe in the positive benefits of a 'growth mindset' way of thinking. Children's emotional resilience and self-confidence is developed through strategies which encourage children to have a go and engage with challenges.

Key dates

- Tuesday 21st September 2021 - Meet the Teacher Phonics meeting (3:30PM)
- Wednesday 22nd September - Parent Growth Mindset session – online from home or from the community hub (9:15am)
- Wednesday 22nd September 2021 – School Photographer
- Monday 25th – Friday 29th October - HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Thursday 18th November – Parents Evening
- Friday 26th November - INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Friday 17th December – 1:00PM – End of Term

If you have further questions or any concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch through the school office.

With best wishes, Miss Rowe and Miss Bennett