



September 2023

Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to the start of a new school year. It has been wonderful to see the children settle so quickly back into school life and approaching their learning with such enthusiasm. Mrs Philpott and I have visited all of the classrooms over the recent weeks and have been struck by the calm and happy atmosphere around school. The children have been eager to talk about their learning with us.

If you are one of St Mary's new parents I would like to formally welcome you. We are committed to working in partnership with parents and we look forward to working with both you and your child. I would encourage you to become involved with our Parents' Association who are working extremely hard to plan events to support the school in the coming year. Their time and commitment is greatly appreciated.

If you require further information or clarification about any of the items below please do not hesitate to contact the school office for additional details

Best wishes, *Headteacher*
Mrs J Barnett



We extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the newest additions to our school, our Reception classes. It is with great delight that we witnessed their seamless integration into the vibrant community of SMAS. Their remarkable ability to embrace and conquer new challenges on a daily basis has been wonderful to witness. The children are thoroughly relishing their time in the Reception environment, actively participating in whole school assemblies and delighting in their inaugural lunchtime experience yesterday.

We applaud you, Reception, for your exceptional efforts and accomplishments.

Well done!



Headteacher
Mrs J Barnett BA
(QTS)

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An Oxford Diocesan
School

School / Home Communication Arrangements



All school/home communication is through the ParentMail system. This is where you should pay voluntary contributions for trips, complete forms (such as permission slips) and make bookings (productions). ParentMail also enables the school to send messages to parents in the event of school closure or other urgent situations. It is therefore essential that you register with the service if you have not already done so.

New parents should already have received either an email or text message inviting you to register. Please click on the link in the message and follow the instructions to register your account. If you have not yet received a message, please check your junk box in the first instance as your email account may not recognise the address, then contact the school office if the message has not been received.

We very much value communication between home and school and we encourage parents to contact the school should they have any queries or concerns. Listed below are some of the ways we will communicate regularly with you;

Each month a Newsletter is published to keep parents informed of important events, dates and current issues.

A Class Letter is sent out at the beginning of each new term and outlines the curriculum units of work and topics covered for that term.

Class teachers are available each morning for a brief chat or to arrange a meeting if need be. Please continue to contact the class teacher in the first instance.

Our PTA plays an important role within the school and sends regular communications to advertise forthcoming events via Class list. Please contact your Class Rep if you are not registered to ensure you receive updates and information.

School Uniform



A reminder that children are not permitted to wear jewellery or nail varnish to school - they will be asked to remove it and it will be followed up with a note home. The school holds nail varnish remover for use when necessary. Please also ensure that long hair (boys and girls) is tied back for both safety and hygiene reasons. Hair ties should reflect the school's colours: brown, yellow or yellow and white check and be kept to a minimum. We ask that all the children look presentable at school, ensuring they are wearing a school tie and have their shirts tucked in. School shoes should be black and trainers are not permitted.



Meet the Teacher

'Meet the Teacher' sessions have taken place and slides from the sessions uploaded to SeeSaw. We hope you found these useful.

Drop Off & Pick Up

We ask that parents ensure their child(ren) arrive at school on time (with all their school equipment and lunch as necessary) and are collected promptly at the end of the school day.

We would also ask parents to make sure children/class teachers know who will be collecting their child after school if this differs from usual arrangements. Please also ensure you have informed the class teacher if your child is attending Curlaround Childcare. Please ensure these changes are relayed in writing at the start of the school day to minimise the number of 'messages' that are left at the office.

Pupils in Year 2 and younger MUST be collected from school by a known adult who is at least 16 years old.

Free School Meals



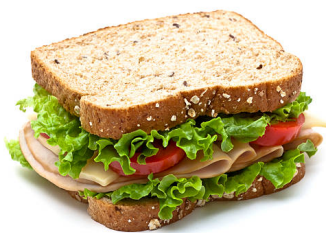
Parents/guardians who are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to claim Free School Meals for their child/children. This also links to the Pupil Premium funding schools can receive. If you require any further information do not hesitate to ring me to discuss this in confidence or contact the School Office.

Staff / Classes

We would like to welcome all our new members of staff to St Mary and All Saints and wish them well for the coming year. The details of all staff are as follows:

Class	Teacher	LSA
RAC	Mrs A Charlesworth	Miss F Lucy Mrs S Bowie
REB	Mrs E Bayliss	Mrs B Canning
1EM	Miss E Moss	Mrs A Bachmann
1KO/KP	Miss K Olive (Mon-Tues) Miss K Pierkaska (Weds-Fri)	Mrs H Mudher
2CL	Miss C Lucas	Mrs M Van Den Berg
2SM/SL	Mrs S McAulay (Mon-Wed) Mrs S Lee (Thurs-Fri)	Miss L Scott
3CF	Miss C Fraser	Mrs S Farthing Mrs D Pearson
3MP	Miss M Page	Mrs C Carter
4LG	Miss L Geary	Mrs K Hunt
4CR/BE	Mrs C Reynolds (M/T/W/F) Mrs B Elliott (Thurs)	Mrs A Arshad Mrs M Lukka
5MC	Mrs M Cribbin	Mrs C Adams Miss S Huckle Mrs S Stoppa
5EG/BE	Mrs E Gillies (Mon - Thurs) Mrs B Elliott (Fri)	Mrs C Brown Miss M Minter
6CR	Miss C Richardson	Mrs A Nolan
6DV	Mrs D Vaidya	Mrs S Khaitan
PPA Teachers	Mrs R Vigneron Mr R Allison Miss F Lucy	

School Meals



Our school meals are provided by Dolce. Meals must be ordered via SchoolGrid by 8:55am each morning, to ensure your child has a hot meal for the day. Menus for each term are available on SchoolGrid. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are

entitled to a free meal under the government's Universal Free School Meals scheme. Children in KS2 (Y3 - Y6) should pay for a meal directly to Dolce via SchoolGrid. If you require any help or support speak to Mrs Massie or Mrs Scott in the office, who will be happy to help.

On the 5th October the government will be completing a census for each school asking them to send in the number of lunches being taken up on that day within Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It will determine the funding allocation for the school meals. I would encourage all Reception and KS1 children to order a meal on this special day.

Homework

Pupils of all ages at St Mary's are set homework. As you are aware, homework is set and submitted via our online learning platform, SeeSaw. The class letter sent at the start of term explains when homework is set and due in. Homework is **not optional** and we expect every pupil to complete the assignments which are set. Please help your child meet this requirement. Your child's SeeSaw login will have been provided by their class teacher.

In addition, **please listen to your child read regularly** - ten minutes **every day** leads to a tremendous improvement, is of value to all curriculum areas and will be of benefit for a lifetime. It is also important to practise spellings and times tables or numeracy passport objectives with your child on a regular basis.

Each child from Y3-Y6 has a login to Times Table Rockstars. This is an online platform that can be accessed at home to support with times table recall. This will be the same log-in as your child used in the previous year. Please speak to the class teacher if you do not have a log in.

Homework Time Allocation:

- R- Reading daily 10-15 minutes
- Yr 1 - 30 minutes per week + daily reading
- Yr 2 - 45 minutes per week + daily reading
- Yr 3 & 4 - 1 hour per week + daily reading
- Yr 5 & 6 - 1 ½ hours per week + daily reading

Car Parking

We do realise that parking is difficult outside the school and we ask that parents park considerately both in the morning and after school to ensure the safety of our children and out of respect to our local residents.

Please avoid:

- Parking on the corner of Maxwell Road and Garvin Avenue as this makes it difficult for our children to see to cross the road safely.
- Parking in the Curzon Centre as this is for visitors to the centre only and is in constant use throughout the day.
- Parking on the grass areas and across the drives of our local residents' houses or in resident only areas.
- Parking in front of the school gates at any time during the school day to drop children off. This poses several problems ranging from a danger to children walking behind a car that may be reversing, to deliveries and visitors being unable to enter the school's car park, which in turn blocks Maxwell Road. In addition, this access point must be kept clear in the event of an emergency.
- Parking cars on or opposite the zigzags outside the school as this obstructs the view of the children trying to cross the road.

As part of the school's Travel Plan, we would encourage parents and children to walk to school whenever possible. On the occasions when you must use a car we suggest you park away from the school. Sainsbury's have kindly agreed to allow our parents to park from 8.30 - 9.15 am and 3.00 - 3.45 pm on the top level of the Sainsbury's Car Park.

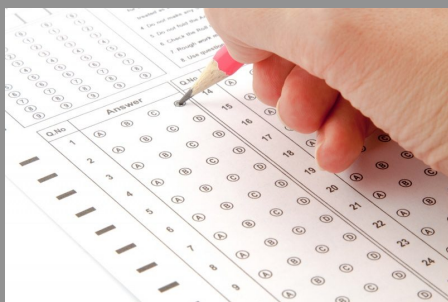
We ask that you please support these important safety guidelines. The school and Governors are working with the County and local Community Officer to make the area around our school safer for your children.

RAAC



I am sure you are aware of the media reports surrounding RAAC in schools. I want to confirm that our school has not been identified or contacted regarding this.

We have worked with the Oxford Diocese and had a full survey to ensure that the necessary information was able to be provided by our school to the DfE as requested.



II+

A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils for sitting the Secondary Transfer Test last week. We were very impressed with the calm and sensible approach the children had to the test and are extremely proud of all of them. Well done Year 6!

Lunchboxes – Fruit



The school continues to promote healthy eating among the children to help establish good eating habits which will benefit them now, ensure they grow well and protect them later in life against chronic diseases. The National School Fruit Scheme promotes a 5 A DAY consumption of fruit and vegetables. The aim is for each child to eat 5 portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables a day.

The school takes part in the Government's free 'fruit and vegetables' scheme, which has been available for the pupils since the return to school in September. This entitles children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to a portion of fruit or vegetable each day. The older children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) are also provided with fruit, which is funded by the PTA. For those children who bring packed lunches, we would also recommend parents provide a portion or two of fruit / vegetables to be eaten at lunchtime along with their sandwich.

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk has additional information for parents and children on recommended content and ideas for packed lunches.

Dates For Your Diary

Harvest Festival takes place in school during the week commencing 9th October. Children will be performing a harvest inspired song to the tune of well known songs! I have no doubt that it will be a fantastic event, one that will also raise awareness and support for our local charity - One Can Trust. Further details regarding performances will be sent separately.



I know it seems really early to be thinking about it, but the children will have the opportunity to enjoy a festive Christmas lunch during December. This is usually a really fun occasion and a very popular meal. Please keep an eye on your SchoolGrid account for further details if you want your child to participate.

Please click [HERE](#) to view school dates for 2023/2024