



St Mary's C of E Primary School & Nursery Newsletter – Issue – 20/10/2024



Please note that should you wish to receive this newsletter in a different format please ask at the school office.

This term's Christian Value is Friendship:

'A friend loves at all times' Proverbs 17:1

September

2nd	INSET 1
3rd	Start of the year for pupils
9th	Little Oaks in FULL TIME
11th	September Class Meetings + Little Oaks Parents Meeting 6pm
10th	School Photo's – Individual's + new staff for lanyards and to update entrance
10 th /15 th	Book Launch with Stewart Foster
20th	British Values Day
24th	Year 6 Parliament trip
24 th	BRLSI visitor to Class 3 (Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution)
27th	Year 5 and 6 Literacy Event Bath Forum

October

2nd	Reception & Y1 Literacy Event trip
3 rd	Deadline for school photo orders
7 th	Stardust Bath Abbey Event Year 3
10th	Mental Health Day
8th/9th	Parents Evenings
16/17th	Folly Farm Year 5&6
24 th	Stonehenge Trip – Year 3
25 th	INSPIRING PEOPLE DAY
25th	END OF TERM



Welcome Back from Ms Lampert

I hope you all enjoyed the Summer break and had lovely family time together.

We are super excited to welcome pupils and families back to school and looking forward to a new school year.

Children have been impressive with their readiness to learn and how quickly they have settled back into our school routines. Well done children, thank you! It is especially lovely to welcome some new pupils to our school. During INSET days, staff were very busy preparing for the year; completing compulsory annual training including Safeguarding as well as agreeing the school priorities for the School Development Plan. These days were crucial as keeping children safe is always a priority for our school and forms the first letter on our VISION acronym:

H- Health and Happiness

E – Excellence

A – Aspirations

R- Resilience

T – Together

Three new members have joined our teaching team this Term and we are sure you will join us in warmly welcoming Miss Birchall, Miss Rhiall and Miss Wynne-Griffiths.



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PSCO



We say farewell this week to our local PCSO, PC Hardy, who has been a valued member of our community for several years.

We would like to thank PC Hardy for his dedication and support to St Mary's, not only has he kept us safe but has also been a regular visitor to our school, delivered talks to the pupils and been an active member of our community – he will be greatly missed!

Breakfast Club

Following a successful launch last year, our Early Bird Breakfast Club is available again from 8am every morning.



In order to accommodate parents' busy schedules and provide more flexibility, parents are able to book a breakfast slot at ANY TIME on Parent Pay right up to the last minute. Early Bird Breakfast Club sessions start at 8am every day and includes breakfast and daily activities (and a chance to complete homework). Sessions cost £3.25 per day.

Wrap around care

We are very sorry for the delay with our Wraparound Care provision and we thank you for your patience. Please be assured we are working very closely with BANES and The Partnership Trust to ensure appropriate procedures are in place before we are able to launch.

We will update parents as soon as we are able.....

Guitar

As part of our music curriculum offer, we are very pleased to be able to continue to offer whole class Ukulele lessons to children in Key Stage Two, building on lessons last year we are excited to see the progress the children will make under the guidance of Mr Nosworthy from the West of England Music Service. Parents of children receiving the lessons may like to come and watch a performance at the end of each term.

Mr Nosworthy, also has availability for guitar lessons. You are able to book individual or group lessons via the link below:

[West of England Music and Arts](#)

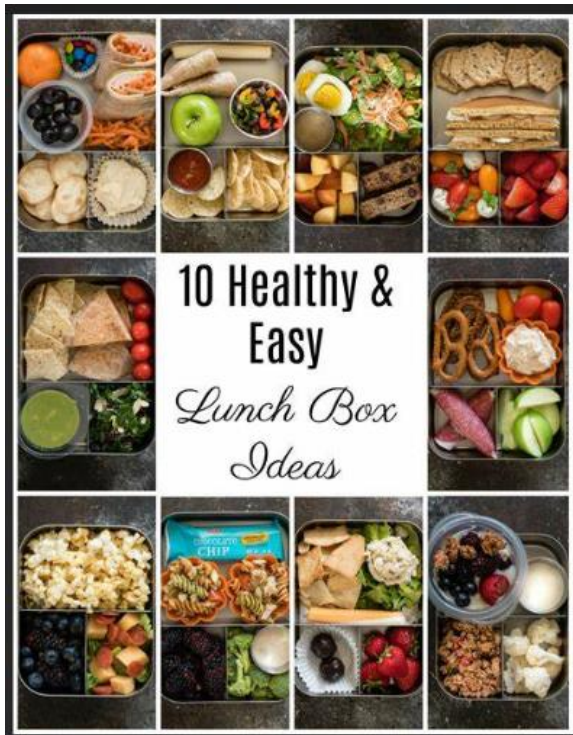
Harvest

We are meeting with Reverend Ian and Reverend Nathaniel next week to (hopefully) arrange our Harvest Celebration in the local Church in Radstock. We will let parents know the date and time as soon as this has been finalised should you wish to join us.



Healthy Lunches

I am writing both to clarify our expectations on healthy lunches and also to simplify the system so that parents can better understand and adhere to the requirements.



There is an increasing issue with childhood obesity and tooth decay and, as an accredited Healthy School, we want to support parents as much as possible to make healthy choices for their children's meals. There is also a clear link between a high sugar intake and dysregulated behaviours, which we seek to protect our children from.

We recognise that this issue can sometimes be confusing and would like to clarify this further.

School kitchens must adhere to very strict nutritional guidelines about what can and cannot be included in school meals. This includes any salt, sugar and saturated fats. All menus compiled by school kitchens must meet these standards and all recipes are scrutinised for their nutritional content before being passed to the kitchen. This means that although the children will sometimes have puddings, cakes or chips for example, these are sourced and cooked in a healthier way and are presented as part of a balanced menu over the week. We understand that it is sometimes hard to explain this to children, who may see their friends as being allowed to have something on school meals that they are not as packed lunches, but we can control the sugar, salt and fat content of school lunches in a way that we cannot with packed lunches.

ALL children at St Mary's are able to have a free School Meal – with funding received from Bath's St John's Foundation.

In the past, we have tried to ensure that packed lunches are of a similar healthy standard to school meals, but we recognise that it can be difficult to navigate the array of different types of foods and to ensure variety in packed lunches.

Therefore, to clarify our rules for packed lunches, they can include anything so long as there is no:

- Nuts (to safeguard those with allergies)

- Fizzy drinks

- Sweets and chocolate bars

Please note that:

- Cakes and biscuits are allowed - but only 1 of these per day is recommended

A health mid-morning snack is encouraged. As one of children's five-a-day, fruit is the best snack. As part of the Schools Fruit and Vegetable Scheme we are able to provide these to pupils in Little Acorns, Little Oaks and Key Stage One. Crackers, breadsticks, low sugar cereal bars, veggie sticks, raisins or dried fruit, cheese etc all make a good snack for playtime too.



Class 3



Class 3 have enjoyed a very busy introduction to our new topic by making the three groups of rocks- sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous using sweets to help make the knowledge stick.

In gymnastics we have been balancing and practicing forward rolls- some were even doing extra challenges

We have also been making woolly mammoths as our hook to instructional writing.



Wellies / Coat reminder

Although we are experiencing beautiful weather at the moment, it will soon change and therefore please can we remind ALL children they will need wellies and coats in school. Pupils are encouraged to enjoy our school grounds in all weathers provided they have suitable clothing.

HUGE Congratulations and THANK YOU to George in Class 1...

... you made Mrs Martin smile!



Parent Governor

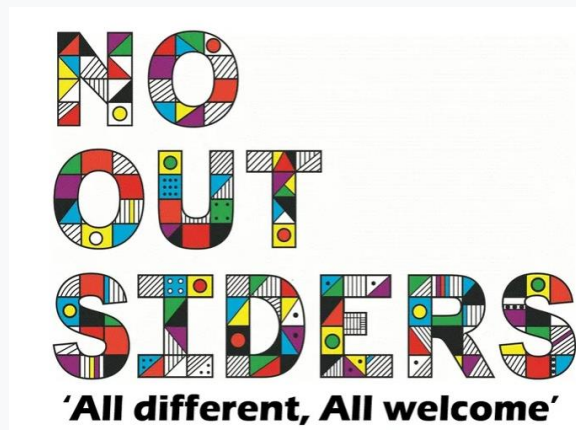
We have a vacancy for a parent governor. Please see the letter attached to this email.



NO OUTSIDERS: EVERYONE DIFFERENT, EVERYONE WELCOME

No Outsiders is an educational program and a series of books aimed at promoting understanding of diversity and inclusion in schools. The program, developed by Andrew Moffat, a primary school teacher in the UK, is designed to help all our pupils to understand and embrace differences, foster an environment where everyone feels welcome and respected, regardless of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

The "No Outsiders" program was created to support the teaching of the Equality Act 2010 in UK schools, which outlines the legal protections against discrimination. It aims to prepare children for life in a diverse society by promoting values such as tolerance, respect, and acceptance of others.



Key Themes:

1. **Diversity:** The program highlights the importance of recognising and appreciating differences in others, whether these differences relate to ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or family structure.
2. **Inclusion:** "No Outsiders" encourages children to see themselves as part of a community where everyone is valued and included. It promotes the idea that there should be no "outsiders" in the classroom or society.
3. **Respect:** A core message of the program is that everyone deserves respect, regardless of their background or identity. The materials help children understand the importance of treating others kindly and fairly.
4. **Challenging Stereotypes:** The program actively works to dismantle stereotypes and challenge prejudice. It teaches children to question and reject discriminatory attitudes and behaviors.

The "No Outsiders" books are carefully chosen picture books that address themes of diversity and inclusion in an age-appropriate way.

- **Examples of Books:** Titles like "Mommy, Mama, and Me" (Lesbian families), "The Great Big Book of Families" (Various family structures), and "Red: A Crayon's Story" (Gender identity) are used to help children understand and accept different perspectives.
- **Examples of Classroom Activities:** These activities include discussions, role-play, and creative projects that help children explore the themes in the books and apply them to their own lives.

In today's diverse world, it's crucial for children to grow up understanding and accepting differences. The "No Outsiders" program helps create a supportive environment where all children feel valued. It equips pupils with the social skills needed to navigate a multicultural society and promotes a positive, inclusive school culture.

Parents play a crucial role in reinforcing the values taught in the "No Outsiders" program. Engaging with your child about what they learn in school, reading the books together, and discussing the themes can help solidify their understanding and acceptance of diversity.

"No Outsiders" is a valuable program that helps children develop empathy, understanding, and respect for others. By promoting these values early on, we can help build a more inclusive and harmonious society for future generations.



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