



ST MARY'S CE FIRST ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO: 109 04.02.2022

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The sun has been shining on St. Mary's today and the children have all been busy in school, finishing off another fantastic week. There have been lots of activities taking place with the celebrations of Chinese New Year and we've even had a tractor visit the school as part of year 1 and 2's topic on transport. The children have also enjoyed a themed lunch provided by chartwells. We will have a new catering provider in place after the Easter break as we have successfully appointed a company called Miquill as our new contractor for the federation. I'm looking forward to the enhanced meal service that I know Miquill can provide for our children. Please look out for further information in the coming weeks and months.

Are you feeling Crafty?

I would like to invite all of our pupils to help us create a display for our school. We are creating Noah's Ark and need lots of animals, birds, sea creatures and minibeasts to bring our display to life. Please can animals be roughly the size of a paper plate and show the heads only. Other animals can be any size between a child's hand and a paper plate and show the entire creature. Children can draw or paint their chosen animal. Please can all artwork be dropped off at the school office. We can't wait to see your beautiful creations and display them in school. These are some beautiful ones that have been made already by Harry in year 3.



Parents have been asking me about the provision of sports clubs and I am delighted to announce that after half term we should have at least two clubs up and running. More details about dates and costs for these clubs will be sent out next week as booking and payment will have to be made via parent pay.

You will continue to see a lot more of me at St. Mary's in the coming weeks. Mrs Brennan is still recovering from the effects of Covid so I will be stepping into her place up until half term. Some of my time will be spent at Brewood Middle but the majority will be spent here. If there is anything I can do to offer any help or support then please do not hesitate to speak to me on the gate or contact Mrs Johnson in the main office.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend ahead and enjoy some quality family time.

Best Wishes
Mr Dickson

Year 4 have been feeling very creative this week. They have been having so much fun creating Winter scenes to link to their new text.



STAR OF THE WEEK

Class	Pupil
Nursery	Olivia
Reception	Harry
Year 1 & 2	Lizzy
Year 3	Harrison
Year 4	Silas

A massive well done to all children for all their hard work this week. We are proud to call you a part of our St Mary's Family.



Reading Volunteers



A big thank you to all the parents who have already said they are able to come and volunteer to hear our children at St Mary's read. If you can spare half an hour a week to listen to our pupils read it will really help. Please speak to Mrs Johnson in the school office if you are interested.

Today year 1 & 2 had a tractor come to our school car park for us to explore. As part of our Transport topic. We all got to sit inside the tractor and look at all the different parts, we found out about a straw chopper and a grab. We also were able to see a canoe that was carried in the straw chopper



REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However, it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote education and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

1. TREAT REMOTE EDUCATION THE SAME AS CLASSROOM LEARNING

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



2. USE CLASSROOM LANGUAGE

If you are encouraged to communicate through email and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



3. TAKE REGULAR SCREEN BREAKS

Whilst remote education might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



4. ALWAYS CONDUCT VIDEO LEARNING IN AN OPEN SPACE AT HOME

To get the best experience from remote education, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' or home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



5. ONLY COMMUNICATE THROUGH APPROVED SCHOOL PORTALS AND PLATFORMS

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



6. STICK TO TEACHER RULES AND GUIDELINES AROUND REMOTE EDUCATION

Your school should issue you with guidance on remote education and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



7. DRESS IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.



8. DON'T SHARE PASSWORDS OR OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



9. DON'T USE SCHOOL PLATFORMS TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS.

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



10. LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Remote education ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.



St Mary's CE First Academy
Term Dates and Holidays 2022-2023
Dates are subject to change.

Spring Term 2022

Thursday 10th February 5 -7pm Valentines Movie Night (PTA Event)

Half term: Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February

Thursday 3rd March World book day Where's Wally - All children and staff to dress as Where's Wally characters these can be home made or brought.

Friday 18th March - Red Nose Day - come dressed as a Super Hero £1.00 donation for charity.

Term ends: Friday 8th April

Holiday: Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17th April

Summer Term 2022

Inset Day: Monday 25th April

Term Starts: Tuesday 26th April

May Day: Monday 2nd May

Half term: Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Term ends: Thursday 21st July

Holiday: Friday 22nd July - Friday 2nd September

Autumn Term 2023

Inset Day: Monday 5th September

Term Starts: Tuesday 6th September

Holiday: Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Term ends: Friday 16th December

Holiday: Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January

Inset Days (School Closed to Pupils)

Monday 25th April 2022

Monday 5th September 2022