



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 33



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week the children have really been enjoying their new topics. Currently the school is learning:

*Cherry Class: Ourselves
Willow Class: Marvelous Me
Oak Class: Toys from the Past
Silver Birch Class: The Great Fire of London
Sycamore Class: The Romans*



Class teachers are completing the necessary paperwork for educational visits and experiences (both in and out of school) and will be communicating these with you throughout the term. If you have not managed to look at your child's class newsletter shared on Class Dojo, please do see the exciting things your child will be learning this term.

On Friday 29th September we will be supporting MacMillan Cancer Support. We are inviting all children to bring a donation into school (suggested at £1) which will go directly to Macmillan and the important work they do. During the day, all the children will have the chance to enjoy fun decorating cakes or biscuits. We are asking children to wear their PE kits as normal on Friday.



Finally, I am asking for a little help from you, our amazing St Mary's family. Throughout the year we want to inspire our children with a range of careers and hobbies. If you feel able to talk with a class, group or even the whole school about your career or hobby please let me know. We already have some fantastic visitors booked in and would really appreciate having more throughout the year.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all next week.

*Mrs. N R Brennan
Head Of School*



SEND COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 26th September parents welcome for a cup of tea and catch up with Mrs. Guy our inclusion lead 9am

Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 28th September, please complete the consent form.

**Supporting Macmillan
Friday 29th September**



Parent Book Look

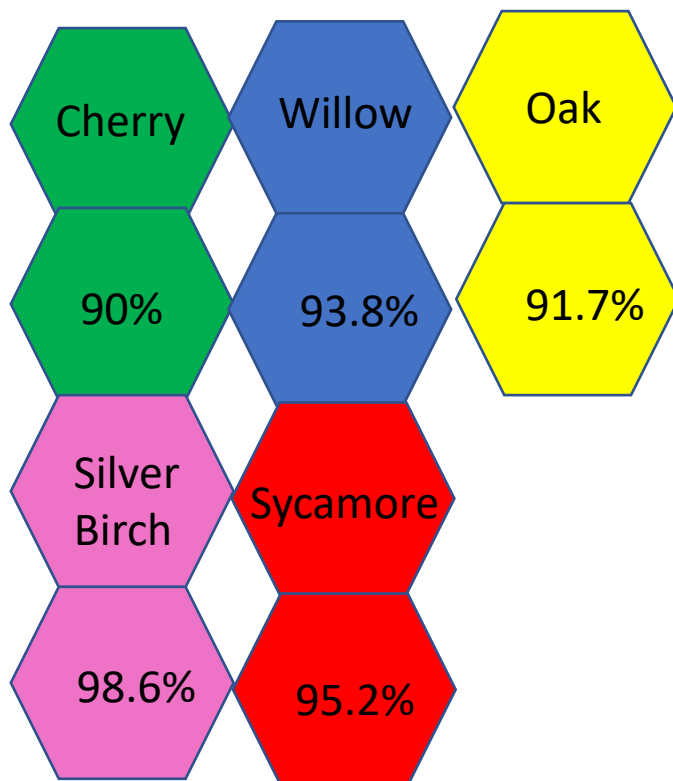
Thursday 5th October parents/guardians welcome from 2:45 to 3:15pm.



Attendance Matters



26 th Sept	Harvest Assembly talk for children.
27 th Sept	SEND coffee morning - Parents welcome 9am
28 th Sept	Flu vaccinations
29 th Sept	Macmillan Coffee morning - Information to follow.
4 th October	Veolia Recycling visit to school.
5 th October	Parent Book Look 2:45 - 3:15pm Parents welcome.
6 th October	Harvest Festival at Church.
10 th October	Hello Yellow- Children to wear something yellow for raising awareness for children's mental health.
9 th October	Parents Evening (Please note the change of date)
10 th October	Parents Evening
16 th October	Hate, crime awareness week,
10 th November	Remembrance day at Church - Information to follow.
13 th November	Anti Bullying week.
13 th November	Odd Socks day - All children and staff to come in odd socks.
17 th November	Children in Need - Children to come dressed down for a £1 donation.



Congratulations to all our classes who have reached our government's expectation of 96% or above..

★ Star of the week ★

Class	Pupil
Cherry	David
Willow	Grayson
Oak	Alfie
Silver Birch	Grace W
Sycamore	Iris


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

Coffee morning for parents & guardians with SEND children.



Come for a coffee and catch up with our Inclusion Lead, Mrs Guy, at an informal coffee morning on Wednesday 27th September 9am
All parents and guardians welcome.

WEEK 1

Allergy information available on request


MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Cheese and Tomato Pizza (v)	Mild Chilli con Carne with Brown Rice	Roast of the Day with New Potatoes and Gravy	Sausage Pasta Bake	Fish Fingers and Chips
Vegetarian				
Chickpea and Spinach Curry with Rice (v)	Lentil Cottage Pie (v)	Cheese and Potato Pasty (v)	BBQ Vegan Meatball Wrap (v)	Veggie Nuggets and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli Option				
Deli Option with Ham, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Egg Mayo				
Vegetables				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert				
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Fruit Jelly	Mousse	Ginger Cake	Fruit Turnover
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

4th Sep, 25th Sep, 16th Oct



Suggested Apps and Games For EARLY YEARS



Learning

FISH SCHOOL HD



This app teaches young children (age 2-5) about important things like letters, shapes, numbers and more, all set in a colourful underwater setting with adorable sea creatures. The basic idea has fish and sea creatures forming the shapes of letters, numbers etc that your little one can identify. Developers Duck Duck Moose have a lineage of creating family friendly apps and games with 21 top-selling apps since 2008. Fish School HD has over 50,000 downloads and offers a rounded package of activities, but many other apps by this developer are highly rated and offer a few twists on the formula. As always it's worth checking a few out to see which best suits your child's interests. Fish School HD is available for free on iOS and Android.



GREEN EGGS AND HAM - DR. SEUSS

The classic Dr. Seuss book has been reworked into an interactive advent for modern day devices, with an emphasis on encouraging literacy learn younger children. Within the app, there's a few different options on how to enjoy the story: you can read it aloud together, have the app read the book follow along, or just play the story through automatically. You can even tap words to hear them individually to practice vocabulary. While the app will set you back £3.79 on Android (£3.99 on iOS) it has an excellent rating and over 10,000 downloads, with many noting how much their young children have enjoyed the story speaks volumes about the quality of the work, too, that a book from 1960 can still be loved by children some two generations after its initial release.

TOCA LAB: ELEMENTS



Toca Lab is the app of choice in encouraging little scientists to get to grips with elements, our world and how physics and chemistry work. This one might be a little advanced for younger kids and, though it has a PEGI 3 rating, it does recommend ages 6-8 in the description. All 118 elements are present in Toca Labs and kids are encouraged to find and test them all. Experimenting with things like Gold, Neon Hydrogen and more, it gives a better grasp of how everything in our universe is formed. Bear in mind though that it's not meant to be a scientifically accurate account of how elements react, but to build curiosity in young minds. The app is available on iOS and Android for £3.99.



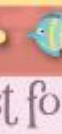
BAREFOOT WORLD ATLAS

What's the next best thing to travelling the world? Well, for kids with access to an iPad or Apple phone, Barefoot World Atlas could be a close second. In this app available only on iOS for £4.99, kids and adults can explore the globe from the comfort of their own homes and learn all about our planet. The app, which is rated 4+, only appears on Apple devices but the sheer amount of information contained in here will keep curious kids busy for hours on end.

SKETCHBOOK - DRAW AND PAINT (AUTODESK SKETCHBOOK ON IOS)



Encouraging artistic ability at an early age can often be invaluable in letting kid's imaginations loose and there are many apps that allow them to unlock that passion. SketchBook is highly recommended with over 300,000 reviews. Essentially, the app comprises a blank canvas and a host of "fast and powerful creative sketching tools" like pens, pencils and paint brushes to let those creative juices flow. SketchBook is rated PEGI 3 so even younger children should be able to get to grips with it. However, it could prove a little too complex for some and the large collection of tools and crisp graphics would suit a larger screen like an iPad, over a mobile phone. Despite this, the ability to simply mess around and doodle, coupled with more advanced accessibility later down the line, should make it a must own for all age ranges. The app is free to download on both Android and iOS.



Just for Fun

LITTLE FRIENDS: CATS & DOGS



If you're looking to introduce pets into the family home but aren't sure about how your children might react, a good way to get your younger ones acquainted with an animal before a big commitment is a game like Little Friends: Cats & Dogs. This Nintendo Switch game tasks players with feeding, playing with and loving their own virtual cat or dog. Much like Nintendo's own Tamagotchi of the 90s, Little Friends is a fun way to build up confidence to owning a real animal. While only a 1 player game, Little Friends: Cats & Dogs is suitable for all ages and entirely offline, so there's nothing at all to worry about when they're enjoying it alone.



YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids takes the popular YouTube format and curates a more specialised environment for children to search through. While any age range can benefit from YouTube Kids, the 'Preschool' Mode is specifically designed for kids aged 4 and under. According to the app's description, 'Preschool' Mode promotes creativity, playfulness, learning and exploration through its channels. The inclusion of parental controls (limited screen-time, video blocking and flagging) and strict advert monitoring by YouTube means the experience is incredibly safe for younger kids. It should be noted that in the app description, YouTube say that some inappropriate content can slip through the cracks, but they're constantly implementing updates to stop these. A hugely popular app, YouTube Kids is available on iOS and Android with well over 100 million downloads.



BBC iPLAYER KIDS



This app is designed for kids and lets them watch all their favourite BBC and CBeebies shows in one place. The simple presentation is super easy to navigate and the app itself is entirely free on both Android and iOS with no adverts whatsoever. BBC iPlayer Kids can download shows to your device's internal storage allowing you to take all the best bits with you when there's no WiFi and multiple profiles mean everybody gets straight to their favourites with minimal fuss. According to the app description, it will ask for your child's name and age to recommend other programmes it thinks they might like.



MARIO KART 8 DELUXE



Mario Kart has been a staple of Nintendo consoles since 1992. It has been a favourite of young and old alike for over 20 years and is always an incredibly fun experience. Now exclusively on the Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart 8, the bells and whistles may have changed, but the enjoyable core gameplay and challenge have not. Suitable for all ages, Mario Kart can be played alone, online or at home with up to 4 players on one screen. The ability to take the Switch out with you into the world and play wherever you like is a huge advantage over other games and means you can always be sure of some quick entertainment.



ROCKET LEAGUE



The concept behind Rocket League takes teams of jet-fuelled cars zipping around football-inspired pitches in an attempt to knock a giant, over-size ball into nets. Rated PEGI 3, the challenge of Rocket League is probably not suited to those 5 and up, but anybody can enjoy the bright colours and fun gameplay. Rocket League is available on Windows PC, Mac, PlayStation, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch at various price points. Be warned though, you can see money in the game for certain items so be sure you know when your young ones are playing and what they're buying.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, www.gamesradar.com and www.4mat.co.uk. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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