

St. Mary's CE Primary School

Head Teacher:
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TERM DATES
School Year 2022-23

Autumn Term
Half Term:
Monday 24th October to
Friday 28th October 2022
Last day of Term:
Friday 16th December 2022

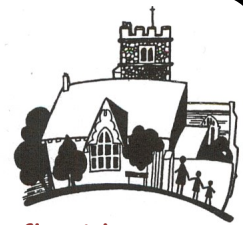
Spring Term
INSET Day:
Tuesday 3rd January 2023
First day of Term:
Wednesday 4th January 2023
Half Term:
Monday 13th February to
Friday 17th February 2023

Summer Term
INSET Day:
Monday 17th April 2023
First day of Term:
Tuesday 18th April 2023
Bank Holiday:
Monday 1st May 2023
Half Term:
Monday 29th May to
Friday 2nd June 2023
Last Day of Term:
Thursday 20th July 2023
INSET Day:
Friday 21st July 2023

IN TOUCH

Friday 9th September 2022

Issue 633



VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish
MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith
VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

Welcome back! It's been wonderful to see children and families return following the summer break. The first week, of any term or half term, is a really important time for all children as they settle into a new class with new routines and a new teacher. All of the children have settled well and it has been a pleasure to welcome many new children and their families to St. Mary's. We look forward to seeing our Nursery and Reception children as they start school. Over this last week, staff have been visiting these children in their homes and I thank all of our families for giving them such a warm welcome.

We hope all of you have had a restful and relaxing summer break with some dedicated time with family and friends. Thank you for all of the wonderful words, cards and gifts which you shared with staff at the end of last term—it was greatly appreciated.

Yesterday's news that our Queen has died saddened us all at St. Mary's. This morning, we held an act of worship in remembrance of her majesty. I am very grateful to Reverend Whittaker for leading. Some of you have asked about school closure, but we have not received any information, as yet, about such a plan. As we receive updates from the DfE, we will keep you informed. Our thoughts are with the new King and his family at this time. It is disappointing that the flag pole, which was funded by donations and grants at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, has not been fully installed over the summer. Builders have laid the foundations but did not return to erect the pole itself. We are now having trouble sourcing builders who are available to do this. If anyone has any contacts and is happy to share them, please speak with our School Business Manager, Sue Abraham.

Over the summer we received further sad news. Governor Sir Robert Walmsley died in early August. Rob, as he was known to us, was as dedicated and supportive a governor as one could wish for. He brought a very valuable and distinctive set of skills and knowledge to the role, which were hugely appreciated by all on the board—especially me. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are also with his family at this time.

There has been lots of information coming out from school this week, hopefully you will have seen an invitation to attend a backpack blessing at St. Mary's on Sunday morning from 10am. Following the Queen's passing, there will not be a BBQ and bouncy castle after the service as previously advertised. I look forward to seeing some of you there from 10am. Coming out with 'In Touch' today, is some information about the Church's Glass Door Sleep Out which looks like a lot of fun. Everyone is welcome - please refer to the flyer for further information.

Also coming out today are the class half termly letters which give parent/carers information about what is going to be happening in each class over the coming weeks. Home learning will start next week for all children in Year One upwards. Please make sure that you and/or your child are able to access Microsoft Teams.

I would like to say a very special welcome to Josh and Jack from KICK London. KICK, a Christian and values driven provider of physical education, are taking over the teaching of Physical Education on a Monday and Tuesday and will be in school conducting mentoring, amongst other activities on a Friday. We are delighted that they have joined our team here at St. Mary's.

Information on Meet the Teacher meetings came out this week. These meetings are an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher in person and to physically see the classroom their child will be learning in. As a result these meetings are being held face to face and are for adults only. I remind you that photography or any kind of recording is not permitted in our classrooms.

It's going to be a very exciting year at St. Mary's, not least as we look to finalise the plans for the development of our playground space. We are hoping our Bicentennial fundraising will allow us to complete Zone 1 of the plan and we will be able to raise funds so that we can complete further zones of development as soon as possible. It is likely the development will cost in the region of £250,000 in total, possibly more. If you would like to be part of the FoSMS Team which delivers further funds for this exciting project please speak to Mrs Sue Abraham or a member of the FoSMS Team.

No doubt children will be exhausted after their first week back at school and so I hope you all have something relaxing to enjoy over the weekend. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday. Until then, have a restful end of week break!

Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher

Whole School Attendance
2022-23

TARGET	97.0%
05/09	92.0%
12/09	
19/09	
26/09	
03/10	
10/10	
17/10	
24/10	
31/10	
Total:	92.0%



QUEEN
ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022