

**St. Mary's CE Primary School**

**Head Teacher:**

**Miss Cheryl Payne**

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**TERM DATES**

**School Year 2022-23**

**Autumn Term**

**Half Term:**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Last day of Term:**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Spring Term**

**INSET Day:**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**First day of Term:**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Half Term:**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Summer Term**

**INSET Day:**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**First day of Term:**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Bank Holiday:**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**Half Term:**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

**Last Day of Term:**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**INSET Day:**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

# IN TOUCH

Friday 10th February 2023

Issue 651



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

We're going out with a bang this half term with three themed learning events taking place this week. This week is Child Mental Health Week. Thanks to Ms. Dunford for planning and leading our work on this very important theme. Children have been taking part in activities which promote wellbeing and positive mental health across the week as well as sharing in virtual assemblies which children across the UK have had access to.

Tuesday was Safer Internet Day, or SID, which is a really good opportunity to celebrate what the internet can do but also to teach children how to engage safely when online. Thank you to Mr Lett for delivering a thought-provoking day and for championing this work which keeps us all safe.

Many thanks to Nikki Lyons who has led a Godly Play session with Year Four this week. We are very lucky to have use of the Godly Play room at St. Mary's Church, access which enables us to enhance our pupils spiritual development. As always, I am very grateful to John and the team for working with us so generously.

Today sees us celebrating Number Day in support of the NSPCC. Everyone dressed to impress by dressing for digits and children have been taking part in Smart Thinkers workshops throughout the day. Please see the photos below. Classes have also switched teachers for some activities and have had an opportunity to work with different teachers throughout the day. Thank you to Mrs Rinaldi for planning a fun packed day for us and thank you all for the generous donations to NSPCC.

It was lovely to see many of you in Church on Sunday for St. Mary's Admission to Communion Service. I was particularly impressed to see children from St. Mary's singing Rutter in the Choir! If your child loves singing I highly recommend St. Mary's Junior Choir. All children are welcome - the choir is open to children in Year 4 to Year 8. Regular rehearsals take place in the church on Tuesdays from 5.30-6.15pm during term time. The Choir sing in public at least once a term, sometimes alone and sometimes with the Adult Choir for major services. Participation is free and the choir provides folders and music. It is a great way to explore faith and music further. If you are interested please email richardquesnel@parishofputney.co.uk

Many of you will have received letters about your child's attendance over the last week or so. Please note that attendance is not measured in days, but sessions. Each school day equals two sessions—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The Department for Education and the Local Authority are asking schools to take various steps to improve attendance and these letters are one way in which we do this. This is a core part of our work and sending out letters to notify parent/carers of their child's attendance was something that was done routinely before the pandemic and will be done again. We are aware of all of the reasons for absence and these letters are sent for parents information even when a child has been absent from school due to sickness. The local authority may advise us that school attendance panels are the next step to monitoring attendance. These are meetings in which parent/carers are asked to attend with Education Welfare Officers and other professionals like the school nurse and are often held when illness is the main cause of absence. When the school is closed for strike action or for other reasons beyond our control, then the number of possible sessions that can be attended is adjusted so that this is not counted in your child's attendance. It is our statutory duty to monitor and improve the attendance of our pupils and to promote excellent attendance and punctuality. Absence during term time will rarely be authorised. We encourage parents to ensure their child is on time for school as arriving late can be disruptive to other pupils in the class when staff are diverted to manage pupils who are late or have to revisit what has been missed. I thank you in advance for your ongoing support to improve our school attendance figures.

Some of you have shared concerns about the situation in Turkey and Syria. I am going to be speaking with the School Council at our next meeting about our charitable work and how we can support the Earthquake appeal. In the meantime, if you are able to and would like to support the work of the British Red Cross in the region then further details can be found at: [https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjpbI4KeI\\_QIVyNPtCh2cmAWAEAAAYASAAEqJHDPD\\_BwE](https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjpbI4KeI_QIVyNPtCh2cmAWAEAAAYASAAEqJHDPD_BwE)

That's it for this half term! We look forward to seeing you on the 20th February at the usual time and wish you all a very happy half term break. We hope you are able to enjoy time with loved ones and that there is an opportunity for all of our families to rest and recuperate before another busy half term begins.

Best wishes,  
 Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

**Whole School Attendance 2022-23**

TARGET	97.0%
Autumn	95.2%
02/01	90.0%
09/01	95.6%
16/01	97.8%
23/01	93.7%
30/01	96.7%
06/02	93.2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>94.6%</b>

**Family Points**

345

479

361

255

