

St Mary's Weekly

'Every Child Flourishing'



Follow us on X: @stmarysbarnsley

Website: www.barnsley-stmarys.org.uk

Friday 22nd September

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have seen lots of exciting learning taking place. Mr Ormondroyd has started working with our Year Five pupils and Mrs Gillott by facilitating a weekly drama session. The pupils in Year Five will build towards taking part in the Nationally accredited Arts Award and the Barnsley Drama festival in the summer term. He also hosts a weekly singing session with our Reception Class pupils. All classes have started off the autumn term fully immersed in our ICT curriculum as well as taking part in history, geography, PE and PSHE sessions. Please ensure you follow us on social media pages and the school website to see what your child/ children are learning in school. We also love it when you share your child's achievements out of school with us too!

We are also delighted to have Mrs Brook joining us Wednesday mornings in school. Mrs Brook is still on maternity leave but is keeping in touch to work on her SENCO role until she returns after Christmas. Please say hello if you see her in the playground and welcome her back.

Please keep an eye on the diary dates below. We have had to amend the Reception and Year 6 Nativity date due to a clash in the church diary. Sorry for this change- we are sure you will enjoy the magic of the children performing for you in the beautiful St Mary's Church this has been a St Mary's tradition for many years. This is Mr Spencer's highlight of the year. We will be starting our PTA again this year and will host a coffee afternoon in the next few weeks to chat to parents who may want to get involved and support in raising funds to support school.

[Water bottle and snacks](#)

Again, please can we ask that children only bring bottles that contain water and not juice. We thank you for your support with this. Additionally, if a child in KS2 (Y3 – 6) would like a snack at playtime we ask that this is just fruit. Any other items brought in will be sent back home as we want to promote healthy eating. We also ask that pupils do not bring sweets in packed lunchboxes of any kind.

[Attendance](#)

As we made families aware last academic year, holidays and unauthorised absences will be subject to fining by the local authority this academic year. This will apply to all holiday applications. Please contact school on the first day of your child's absence if they are ill.

[Safeguarding](#)

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leaders at St Mary's:

Mr Spencer

Ms Steele

Mrs Brook

Mrs Goodyear

Miss Gulliver

Homework

Reading with children, practising times tables, practising spellings, and revising knowledge organisers is vital to children's success in school. We do not set other homework apart from in Year 6 to support with SATs preparation and to support transition to secondary school. We believe supporting children with these skills gives children the best chance of success in school. Please support children with these skills at home to ensure they have time and support to work on these steps to success. We have started weekly times table battles in Year 2 to Year 6 again. Please encourage the use of this and verbally practising multiplication facts with pupils at home too. Having a secure knowledge of multiplication facts and being able to recall these rapidly by the end of Year Four gives your child a secure basis for Maths in Years Five and Six.

Frequency	Type	Notes	Check
Daily (10 mins)	Reading	Reading is the most important homework activity that a child can do. There are three types of reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- You reading to your child- Your child reading to you- Your child reading independently Over the course of the week, you should be engaging in all three types of learning. Just ten minutes reading a day adds up to over 60 hours of reading a year.	Reading Record Your child should record the page numbers and write one sentence in their reading record. This should be checked and signed by a parent/carer every day.
Daily (10 mins)	Times Tables/Number Bonds	Rapid recall of times tables makes maths learning much easier for children, as all their brain power can focus on problem solving. The government also requires all children to know their times tables by the end of year four. This is checked by an online test.	Times Table Rockstars Your child should use TTRS to practice for a few minutes each day. Teachers will check TTRS accounts.
Weekly (10 mins)	Phonics Spellings	Pupils will learn a new spelling rule each week. They will bring home a list with words that use this rule, and should practice them using look, say (the sounds), cover, write, check.	Weekly Spelling Test Help your child write the sound and spell the whole word. Children will be tested each week.
Weekly (10 mins)	Knowledge Organiser	Each half term, your child will be provided with a knowledge organiser for their wider curriculum This is the essential knowledge that children must know to access the curriculum. We will have regular retrieval and assessment opportunities to deepen the children's understanding of the key understanding.	Retrieval Sessions End of Unit and End of Year Assessments

Diary Dates

DIARY DATES- Here are some useful dates for your diaries already. We will provide further information about specific events nearer the time. We have lots of exciting activities in store...

OCTOBER

Individual Photos – Tuesday 3rd October

Fair Banding Assessment with Trinity St Edwards 10:30am in school (for pupils who have opted in directly with Trinity) 6th October

Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day – 10th October

Year 3 author event on Zoom with John Patrick Green 10th October

Harvest Festival Mass in school 19th October

Annie Trip to Sheffield for Year Six 19th October

TT Rockstars Day 20th October
Year 5 author event on Zoom with Jack Meggitt Phillips 25th October
Autumn Disco 26th October KS1 3:20pm- 4:30pm KS2 4:45- 5:45pm
Last day before half term 27th October

NOVEMBER

Year 4 parent workshop on the Year 4 Multiplication Check 2:00pm and 4:30pm 7th November
All Saints Day Mass in school 9th November
Flu Immunisations 9th November
Odd socks day to mark the start of anti-bullying week 13th November
Parents evening 15th November 3:30pm-5pm
Parents evening 16th November 3:30pm-6pm
Children in Need Day 17th November
Year 6 Robinwood parents meetings 22nd November 3:30pm and 4:30pm (kit lists will be sent prior to this date)
Year 6 Robinwood 27th - 29th November

December

Christmas Dinner Day 6th December (Christmas Jumpers can be worn)
National Christmas Jumper Day 7th December
Advent Mass in school 6th December
Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip – 11th December
Christmas Party Day 12th December (Party clothes can be worn to school)
Christingle service at St Paul's Church (pupils only) 13th December
Christmas Fayre 14th December
Afternoon production for Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5th 18th December
Evening production for Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 19th December
Carols Around the Tree PM 21st December (all parents/ carers welcome)
Reception/ Year 6 Nativity at St May's Church AM 15th December (parents/carers welcome of pupils in Year 6 and Reception)
Last Day before Christmas Holidays 21st December

Yours sincerely,

L. Spencer
Headteacher

R. Steele
Deputy Headteacher