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Church of England
Primary School**NEWSLETTER**Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families continue to be safe and well.

Next Academic Year:

You will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday about plans for all children returning to school in September. As we explained last week, governors and senior leaders are actively planning ahead for this and we will keep you informed as soon as our plans are confirmed. As I'm sure you can imagine, there is a lot of careful planning involved to ensure the safety of all the children and staff. We are very much looking forward to the possibility of resuming some sense of normality for the children, although it is likely to be a 'new normal' for some time to come. This will include staggered arrival and home times as well as staggered lunch times. We will send you further details when senior staff and governors have received the local authority and other additional advice.

Celebrating the Y6 class of 2020:

Staff are planning ways to have a leavers' service for the children in Y6. Despite all of the challenges, we would not want the class of 2020 to leave without marking their time at St Mary's. Any plans will have to adhere to social distancing and infection control guidance, which as you are aware, restricts a lot of what we can do together, but we are still working on a solution. We will be writing to Y6 parents and carers as soon as we have something which could safely work.

The Covid Summer Food Fund

We want to make sure that as many families as possible are aware of the support available to them during this difficult time and continue to register for free school meals, particularly if they have not done so before.

Parents of children in reception, year 1 and year 2 may not have registered before as their children have previously received a free meal through the universal infant free school meal offer. Please find out if you may be eligible here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Below are links to additional resources that explain the eligibility criteria for free school meals and how to apply.

- Citizens Advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/>
- The Money Advice Service: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/categories/benefits>
- Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>

- EdenRed guidance for parents on how and where they can use their free school meal vouchers: https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf Parents and carers can contact Edenred via freeschoolmealsparents@edenred.com with any queries regarding their vouchers.

Distance Learning:

We have been so proud of how well the children have continued to engage with their learning on Google Classroom and via email for Reception. Do keep an eye on the class pages of the school website as we are regularly uploading photos of the children's wonderful learning.

This week, senior leaders reported back to governors on the range of learning that the children have been accessing across the school. This included some of the following:

- Virtual field trips using Google Maps
- Messages of hope inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement
- Coding and De-Bugging fictional computer games
- Cloud gazing and nature mandala making
- Creating mythical creatures inspired by music
- Acts of peace, compassion and kindness
- Researching Mae Jemison, the American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut who became the first black woman to travel into space.
- Drawing and making happiness jars
- Along with Google Meets, stories, maths, literacy, phonics and so much more!

Spiritual resources for children and young people: Sunday Club and Little Tots

- St. Mary's Church Sunday Club: Children from St. Mary's School can join the Sunday Club online at 11:30 each Sunday morning. If your child would like to join with their friends from St Mary's please contact [the parish office](#) for an invitation to Zoom.
- Little Tots: Younger siblings can also join Little Tots online at 10am each Thursday morning to catch up with other parents of young children, and to listen to a story. Please contact [the parish office](#) for an invitation to Zoom.

A Note for Reflection:

As you know, we are focusing our collective worship on courage and perseverance. Here is this week's prayer from Monday's collective worship which is loaded onto Google Classroom.

Dear Lord,
 Give us your strength to face challenges.
 Help us to remember that sometimes we need
 to take small steps to begin with, but it's starting
 the journey that matters.
 Thank you that just as you promised to be with
 Moses,
 You have also promised to be with us
 wherever the journey leads us.
 Amen

**From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe,
 stay well and our love and prayers be with you.**

**Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams
 Headteachers**