



# St. Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School

Devon County Council, Children and Young People's Services

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Artsmark  
**Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

Friday, 21 September 2018

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of the first few days back and I am pleased to see the way that the children have settled into their new classes.

There is, as ever, lots going on this term and a comprehensive list of dates will be collated and sent to you in the next week or so. However, you should be aware that starting next week we have year group meeting for teachers to speak to parents about routines and specifics for their team. These will be taking place during school time just before 'pick-up' and should only last 20 minutes or so.

### **Parent Meeting Dates**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 and Year 6

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Year 1

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2 and Year 3

For each of these meetings you should wait by the iron gates and will be let in through that way at 2:45pm.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Foundation Stage – Please come to the front office at 12:30pm.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

A list of the clubs that will be available to your children will be published on Monday. From then you will be able to sign up your child for these using the School Money system. Subscription for many of these clubs is limited but they are all free of charge. You can use your payment history to check if your child has been given a place at the requested club.

### **Plastic Free School**

We have registered with the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Communities initiative. As a starting point in our drive to support this, from next week slushies that are served at lunchtime will be served in 100% recyclable cups with paper straws.

### **Breakfast Bar**

Every Monday – Thursday Key Stage Two (Year 3-6) children are able to access a breakfast bar. This opens at 8:40am and the children are charged 50p and can select from a range of cereal, toast, fruit and flapjack. They also have milk and juice available. This is something that has proved popular in the past and is a good start to the day for many children. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and they are in Year 3 or above then they are also able to attend breakfast bar free of charge. If you have any questions please ask at the office.

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## Car Parking

Please note that Torrridge District Council have kindly agreed to continue with our car parking concession this year. All cars must be displaying a **blue** school parking ticket and have the Registration number of the car written on the ticket. Please be aware that the pass only allows parking through the stated times so if you are staying longer for any reason you will need to pay or find alternative parking. The pass allows you to park in the car park opposite the school, in the cattle market and also in the overflow car park at the end of Bank End car park, next to the rugby club (which gives a short, traffic-free walk around the park to the Crossing Patrol opposite the school).

## Musical Instrument Tuition

Learning to play a musical instrument is a valuable thing for children to do. It engages both sides of the brain and can assist with learning in other areas of the curriculum. We have begun utilising Whole Class Instrumental Tuition (with Year 5 learning to play an elementary form of trombone and Year 3 learning the ukulele, last year). We also have a peripatetic music teacher who visits the school on Tuesdays. There is a charge for this as Mr Aidy Nuthall is a freelance musician but he has been working with the school for many years and many children have benefited from his expertise.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September Mr Nuthall will be running a short demonstration in the school hall. This will give you an opportunity to speak to him and fir your children to try instruments that they may wish to learn. He will then be looking to fill places which have been vacated by last year's leavers, for this term's lessons. If your child is in Years 3 – 6 and wish to begin these lessons then please go to the hall immediately after 'pick-up' time on Tuesday (3:10pm) to meet with Aidy.

We are looking forward to a positive year of learning and growth. If you have any concerns about your child please speak to a member of staff as we want all children to thrive at St Mary's and working in partnership with you is vital in achieving this.

Thank you for your support.

Adrian Scarrett

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