



St Mary's CE Primary School
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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 12th January 2024, WEEK 1

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back. I hope you had a wonderful break and lots of lovely family time. Term has started well and if you attended Celebration Worship on any of the sites this week you will have seen some of the children talking about their exciting learning. Do have a look at X and Instagram for photos of our Hook Days.

Willow Wood

We were upset to come back to school and see the lovely new marquee used to support work at Willow Wood had been damaged by the storms - £500 simply blown away! We will be looking at ways to raise the money for repairs or a replacement in the coming weeks ☹️.

Kevin has asked me to add a note to today's newsletter about bird and bat boxes which he hopes to persuade you to sponsor. The bird boxes are squirrel-proof which protects the eggs and baby birds when they hatch. Each box is numbered so that your child will be kept up to date about the bird or bats that nest there; Kevin aims eventually to have a camera in the boxes so we can watch what happens as it happens; we are Twickenham's very own 'Countryfile'. If you would like to sponsor a box they are £20. You can do so by paying via Tucasi. Once you have a box your child will receive a sponsor letter and will be shown where their box is when they visit Willow Wood.



Weekly attendance: w/c 8th January 2024

Well done to Year 5 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' - for the highest attendance and to Reception for the least lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	3	96%
Year 1	12	96.10%
Year 2	4	97.78%
Year 3	5	96.11%
Year 4	5	96.78%
Year 5	5	98.30%
Year 6	8	97.78%
Whole School	42	96.98%

The NHS has produced the helpful guidance below to assist parents in deciding which illnesses require their child to take time off school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

OTHER NEWS

Universal Free School Meals

The free school meals initiative has been extended to July 2025. The amount schools are paid for each meal has also been increased to assist with shortfalls.

Chinese New Year

The first day of the Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between 21st January and 20th February; this year it is on Saturday 10th February. It is the year of the dragon and we will be paying special attention to the wonderful dragon made by props club which now hangs in our middle site library. Children with Chinese heritage will be invited to share their Chinese New Year experiences in class with their friends they after all are the experts. There are some local events using the following link:

For more information contact [Danielle Hutchinson](#).

[Click here](#) to view the flyer.

Survey from Achieving for Children

The borough has asked us to advertise their survey regarding your requirements for wrap-around care. If you'd like to take part here is the QR code:



Give us the forgiveness to accept people's apologies and the service to help others in need. Help us to show friendship when in a fight and to ease or comfort people when they are down and having a hard time in their lives and might need us there with them standing strong together. We pray this in your name. Amen. *Sienna 6C*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Angela'.

Angela Abrahams
Headteacher
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Top e-safety reminders

We all know the benefits of technology but it is always good to be reminded of the dangers to young people too, so here are a few recommended tips:

- Do not allow your child to have their phone or device in their bedroom at night.
- It's recommended that, if needed, children are given a clock/alarm in their bedroom so that they don't require their phone at night.
- Encourage your child to talk about their online activity with you.
- Set your child's phone security settings before you give them a phone or device. Legally, the phone belongs to you until your child is 16, so do check it regularly.
- Allowing your child on Tik Tok is risky and you are advised against it.

FINALLY

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for our wonderful teachers at St Mary's and our nice friends around us. Help us to endure throughout the academic year. We are thankful for our caring staff at our school who give us the wisdom we need for the subjects that can be hard for us. We are thankful for our hard working parents who are able to please us with a warm plate of food every night and day. Please help us make new friends too. Help us to give back to our loving community. Please help us to care and be kind to one another in our lives.