

St. Mary's (Endowed) Church of England VA Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another exciting year! It has been so lovely to be in school this week and to begin to get to know the children and their families. Please do come and say hello in the mornings. Normally I will be at St Mary's on Mondays and Thursdays as well as some Wednesdays. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped in painting the school buildings and outside areas. They look fantastic! Thank you especially to the Friends Committee for coordinating the team. Everyone has commented on how wonderful it looks and your hard work has made the school buildings an even nicer place to be.

Family Learning

As we start a new year and new topics, we are planning lots of events this term for parents to come and enjoy in school. These range from learning cafés for each class, church services and parent workshops. I have listed the dates for this term below. We know that communication is really important and will make sure that we send out regular reminders of events coming up. We will also be starting a weekly newsletter to let you know what has been happening in school and to give you information for the week to come. I am always open to new ideas as to how to improve our communication so please drop me a line if you have any thoughts – quick wins or longer term projects. My email address is head@lighthousefederation.norfolk.sch.uk.

Rewards

This year we have tried to streamline our reward systems to make them more meaningful for the children. The rewards your child might receive are...

Smarties Awards – these are weekly awards which children earn for showing good learning behaviours. They will be presented on a Friday.

Jigsaw Awards - this year we have a new PSHE scheme called Jigsaw. Each week we will have a different focus and will look for children who are doing this in school. They will receive a certificate at the end of the week.

Team Points – team points are earned for living our values, showing great learning behaviours or being a fantastic member of our community. Children work towards bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates and team points can be traded for rewards.

Reading Karate Badges – these badges are awarded for reading outside of school. Every time a child reads at home they will receive a point so join in the fun!

Praise Postcards – these are sent to children by post and are only awarded on very special occasions. Who will be the first to receive one?!

Letters

As a school we are trying to be more environmentally friendly and so would like to move towards a paperless system for letters and information. Weekly newsletters and general information letters will now be sent by email but you can always ask for a paper copy from the office if you prefer. Letters which need a form to be completed will still be sent by paper.



Home Learning

We will continue with our home learning projects and encourage children to bring their work into school to share. The home learning menus will be on the website and will be emailed out by the class teachers. If you would like a paper copy, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Attendance

Good attendance at school will always have a positive impact on your child's learning. Today you will also receive a letter from the local authority which we have to send each year about this.

Dates for your diary so far!

Thursday 28th September, 9am – Grandparents coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer. All grandparents are welcome to join us for worship from 9am – 9.20am. There will then be time to join your grandchildren in class before coffee from 10am – 10.30am. All proceeds will go towards this important charity.

Thursday 5th October, 2.30pm – Maths learning workshop – more details to follow

Thursday 12th October – harvest lunch

Thursday 12th October, 2pm – Harvest celebration at St. Mary's church

Friday 20th October – last day of half-term

Monday 30th October – back to school!

Wednesday 1st November and Thursday 2nd November – Y5/6 Bikeability, more details to follow

Friday 3rd November – Elm Class Scoot-life- more details to follow

Friday 10th November, 3pm – Remembrance song and silence on the playground

Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th November (TBC) – Individual photographs

Thursday 16th November – Children in Need – wear spots & cake sale

Monday 20th November – Parents' Consultations for Ash, Elm and Oak

Tuesday 21st November – Parents' Consultations for Beech

Tuesday 21st November – Flu vaccinations

Wednesday 29th November – Tag Rugby (Y4-6)

Tuesday 5th December – Decorations morning – all welcome!

Tuesday 12th December – singing at Cromer Crematorium

Thursday 14th December, 2pm and 4pm – Nativity performance

Wednesday 20th December, 2pm – Christmas celebration at St, Mary's church

We will do our very best not to change these dates although this may sometimes be inevitable. Class teachers will also email about a learning café which will take place for each class – an opportunity to come and learn in class with your child.

Wishing you all the very best for the new term,

Mrs Laura Watts

Mrs L. Watts
Executive Headteacher, Lighthouse Federation

