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## July 2021 Newsletter

### "Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 3 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

Through God's love and our Christian Values we encourage each individual to love, respect and value themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be.

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

We are fast approaching the end of term and this academic year.

#### THE FINAL FEW WEEKS:

There are lots of different events and activities taking place in school over the final few weeks of the academic year, although the reality is, things will need to be done differently, as we continue to follow the measures in place to keep us all safe. We will sadly not be in a position to invite parents / carers into school to watch events unfortunately. However, we will make sure we continue to find ways to share events and activities with you, so that you don't miss out. This will be through our Twitter account, website, newsletters and live streaming.

#### Sports Days:

Our sports days are taking place in class bubbles -pictures will be posted on twitter and on the school website.

#### Crazy Golf:



It has been a difficult year for all our pupils (and their parents) and these recent weeks have been particularly tricky. All our pupils have shown amazing resilience and have adapted to changes, once again absolutely brilliantly. To thank all the children we have organised for Crazy Golf to come to school Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Each class bubble will enjoy the experience during the course of the day. - Look out for more photographs !  
If class bubbles are required to isolate on this day, please be assured that we will arrange an alternative treat!

#### Hot Picnic Day

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, we are hosting a Hot Picnic Day. Weather permitting we are hoping all pupils will be able to eat their meals outside on this day, in their bubbles.

The cost of this meal will be £2.55 per pupil and if you would like your child to have a school meal on this day please contact the school.

### **Transition Days**

We are starting to prepare children for their new class. We will make sure transition arrangements are carefully planned, so that children are supported in preparing for the next stage of their journey. We do need to maintain bubbles therefore class teachers will visit their new class in their existing classrooms. This will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Year Six Transition Days to Secondary Schools. We understand that almost all Secondary Schools in Oldham are offering virtual transition days, rather than face to face events. This is to avoid mixing bubbles from different schools. Different schools are providing different ways of doing these transition days, with most providing a range of activities / videos that can be accessed at any point. In most cases, children and parents/carers will be able to do this together from home. We will continue to support Year 6 as always with their preparation to Secondary School with our own transition materials.

### **Year 6 Leavers' Service:**

Our thanks to Mother Katy for allowing the Year 6 Leavers service to take place in St Mary's Church. To ensure this is covid safe we are inviting Key Stage 2 pupils to join Year 6 in church. The remainder of pupils and staff will watch the service via a live stream. The parents of Year 6 will also be invited to watch via the livestream. The service will commence at 9:15am and we anticipate it to last approximately 60 minutes. As we are working in difficult times, please understand that we will do our absolute best to make this service work and that we ask for your patience and understanding should difficulties arise. A huge thank you to the Men's Society for kindly paying for the bibles which will be presented to Year 6 as they leave St. Mary's School. Mother Katy and Father Paul will join us for the service and present the awards and the bibles to our pupils.

### **School Eucharist:**

We are pleased this year we are able to take part in our annual School Eucharist. This will be in St Mary's Church on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. This is just for Key Stage 2 pupils. All pupils will remain in their bubbles. We will post photographs on twitter and the school website of this event.

### **School Reports :**

End of year reports will be available from week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> July. This year these will be e-mailed to parents. Should anyone require a printed copy please contact the school office and this can be arranged.

### **Return to School In September:**

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that **school will re-open for pupils on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

Schools have not yet received any new guidance from the DFE in terms of what is required as pupils return in September. Please assume we are back to normal school hours 9:00am - 3:30pm using normal entry and exit points for school. Reception pupils will continue to use their small gate for all entry and exits. Should new guidance be available before the end of term I will update you. What is more likely, is that the guidance will be issued during the summer break. Therefore please just prior to returning to school check your emails and the school website for any changes. **Pupils will still need to bring a labelled water bottle to school as we return.**

### **Sad Goodbye's and Warm Welcome to New Staff:**

We welcome Mrs Vicky Shaw who will join the St Mary's Team in September.

Mrs Whitmore retires after 27 years of service and has had a huge impact on so many pupils who have passed through St Mary's. Also Miss Leigh will be leaving us and although she has only been with us for a short amount of time, she has also made a real difference with our Year 1 pupils. We wish the staff who are leaving us our very best wishes.

### **Catering:**

From September we will launch a new school menu with the facility of pre ordering meals for your child from home. Menus and how to access the pre ordering service will be sent to you very shortly. We look forward to

welcoming the catering staff to the St Mary's Team.

### It's that time of year again, the Summer Reading Challenge is nearly upon us!

The Summer Reading Challenge gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to keep up their reading skills during the long summer holidays.

The theme for Summer Reading Challenge 2021 is 'Wild World Heroes'. The challenge will help to inspire children to explore ways of helping to save the planet, through reading and fun creative activities at your local library.

# WILD WORLD HEROES

This year schools will send home **starter packs as soon as they arrive**. Throughout the summer your child's challenge is to visit the library to borrow and read **6 books** and **collect incentives** along the way. Incentives will include a **bookmark, pencil and a paper game**. Once they have read all 6 books and completed the 'summer reading challenge' they will receive their Wild World Heroes **gold medal and certificate**.

The **Library will keep the reading prizes** to encourage children to visit their local library over the summer, read books and complete the challenge.

For every **two books read, your child will receive two stickers** to put in their passport and also a reading prize. Once they have **read all six books, the challenge is then complete** and Oldham Libraries will inform us of their excellent 'work' so they can be presented with their own **their certificate and medal**. For **Year Six pupils** who will be moving onto Secondary School, **certificates and medals can be collected at the library**.

A very **special library membership card will be sent home** which is ready for activation as soon as you visit the library. If your child already has a library card and is a member of Oldham Libraries, then they can switch their card to the new Summer Reading Challenge themed card on arrival too. You can use this membership card to borrow books from any of the 12 libraries this summer and complete the Summer Reading Challenge!

Oldham Libraries will be hosting **fun activities and events throughout the Summer Holidays**, something for everyone and fun for all the family. They will have crafts, author visits, story times, interactive animal handling, Lego creations and more !

### SCHOOL UNIFORM:

We are very proud of how smart pupils from St Mary's School look and this is often commented upon when we are out on visits. One of the reasons pupils look so smart is because of the compliance with the school uniform, thank you for your support in this matter. Occasionally pupils do deviate from the school agreed uniform, particularly regarding trousers, socks and shoes, therefore can I politely remind you of the school uniform ahead of purchasing any new items over the summer.

#### **St. Mary's School uniform**

- Pale blue shirt or blouse
- Grey school trousers (not canvas)** or skirt
- (blue & white cotton - usually gingham - dresses may be worn in •the summer)
- Dark grey jumper or cardigan
- Grey or white socks
- (in cold weather, grey or dark tights may also be worn)
- Navy blue & gold tie (available from school)

Both boys and girls may wear smart, grey trousers. **Black shoes should be worn school. Trainers are not permitted.**



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**PE Kit** – A standard PE kit will be required at all times and can be kept in school. This comprises: black pumps (and outdoor trainers for the Juniors), white tee shirt, dark blue shorts / PE skirt or 'skorts'. An outdoor kit will be needed for the colder months - which is an additional **dark coloured** hoodless top and dark, plain tracksuit bottoms ( Key Stage 2 only ). **All PE kit, including the Juniors, should be brought in a PE drawstring bag.**

### IN ADDITION

Please can you note the school policy on jewellery and hair is as follows:

#### **Jewellery**

For safety reasons, jewellery is not allowed in school, with the exception of watches. Watches should be removed for physical education and games. **(Fitbits/activity trackers, smart watches or other similar devices are not permitted in school)** Earrings (including studs) are not allowed in school

**Pupils who come to school wearing earrings WILL be asked to remove them, plasters are not acceptable to cover newly pierced ears.**

#### **Hair**

All long hair needs to be tied back due to health and safety reasons. Hair should be smart and appropriate for school and should be of a natural colour. **Hairstyles, which are deemed to be extreme by the school, are not permitted.** There must be no patterns/tramlines or extreme height. As guidance, **hair should be no shorter than 3 on top and 2 on the sides.** No make-up or nail varnish is permitted.

#### **Labels**

Please ensure your child's name is **labelled** in everything - including pumps, trainers, ties and drinks bottles.

#### **Book Bags**

All pupils in school from Reception to Year 6 are required to have a book bag. **Please do not send large rucksack type bags as an alternative as we cannot store these in the small cloakroom areas.**

### ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

150 Club: Winning Numbers from the June Draw are : 14, 34, 16, 104, 70, 79

The next draw will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. This draw will include the end of term £500 draw.

Summer Raffle - please return your request for entry into the draw £1:00 per ticket and a chance to in some amazing hampers ! Draw to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### ICT:

Please remember to look at our school website - newsletters from school and your class are posted onto the site for your reference. Pictures of recent events are also uploaded. Remember you can also follow us on twitter: [www.twitter.com/stmarysce](http://www.twitter.com/stmarysce). Twitter has a direct feed to our website on the right hand side of the home page and important messages and updates can be found here.

My sincere thanks for your continued support and co-operation in another difficult and challenging year for everyone. Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday. Hopefully we can look forward to more of the usual school life and routines we enjoy as we return in September.

Kind regards,

P.A Hartley

*Headteacher*