

St. Mary's CE Primary School

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TERM DATES School Year 2019-20

Spring Term

First day of Term

Tuesday 7th January 2020

Half Term

Monday 17th February to
Friday 21st February 2020

Last day of Term:

Friday 3rd April 2020

Summer Term

First day of Term:

Monday 20th April 2020

Bank Holiday:

Friday 8th May 2020

Half Term:

Monday 25th May to
Friday 29th May 2020

Last Day of Term:

Friday 17th July 2020

INSET Day:

Monday 20th July 2020

IN TOUCH

Friday 27th March 2020



CHAMBERLAND
RESIDENTIAL

Issue 546

Hi everybody! I hope this finds you all safe and well. It's been lovely to see some sunshine even if, ironically it has come at a time when not everyone is allowed to be outside and enjoying it! We've been a small but merry crew here this week - my thanks go to the staff that have been working on site this week, but also those who have been working hard at home to keep learning going. It's very quiet here at school without you all! We hope you will be back soon!

Your teachers have been joining in with the Body Coach sessions every morning and I am not sure we will recognise them when we all get back to school—there are a lot of teachers with new aches and pains this week!

I thought it would be good to reach out with an 'In Touch' this week, being as it is our first week apart. I can't guarantee that I will have enough news to maintain it every week, but where there is, I'll keep going... As many of you know I'm not usually short of a thing to say and so I will do my best to keep a bit of our normal routine going during this time...

Thank you all for working hard at home over the last week. We appreciate it can't be easy for everyone at the moment—some of you are not only supporting your children with their school work, trying to work full time and manage your family commitments but you are also dealing with a very uncertain situation and I am sure there are lots of questions. Please remember that all of the learning tasks are optional. They are there only if they are useful but we don't want anyone to worry about them or for them to cause stress and frustration at home—if this is happening then please leave them and focus on something else instead. Thankfully, it looks like the majority of you are finding them useful and teachers have had some very positive feedback so far.

There have been a few questions about whether we have plans to use any technological platforms during closure such as Zoom or YouTube. The answer is no. Advice from our safeguarding partners before closure was that this was not a good time for us to begin using unknown technologies. Given the examples of the zoom meetings which have gone wrong on various social media platforms, I think this was wise advice... Rest assured this is something that on our return to school we will look into for the future. I am sure many of you have been valuing screen time as a treat for your children and so we have tried to make learning non-web based as far as we possibly can. We are aware that not everyone has the technology at home and that some parents will need devices for work and so we have kept things old-school for now...

We hope you have been enjoying your sessions with The Body Coach. I have been in contact with Andy Instone, from Urban Strides, who many of you will remember has been into school to work with us a few times. He is currently putting together some online dance lessons for us—with some mindfulness and resilience work built in. Andy is hoping to offer us this for a £1 per week per family. More news on this to follow...

This week our teachers have been getting used a new way of working and so we haven't tackled the question of how and when we will carry out Progress in Learning Meetings. Some of you have asked about these and rest assured that some news on these will follow shortly. Also to come in future editions is news on our plans for the Easter Holidays when we plan to give everyone a break from the routine of school timetables but will instead provide some more fun open ended tasks for those who would like them...

Until next week—stay safe and well,
Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher

Whole School Attendance 19-20

Week beginning	Percentage
Autumn Term	97.5%
06/01	96.2%
13/01	97.0%
20/01	98.1%
27/01	97.2%
03/02	96.3%
10/02	95.9%
HALF TERM	
24/02	96.2%
02/03	97.7%
09/03	95.6%
16/03	73.3%
23/03	CLOSED
30/03	
Overall	96%
ANNUAL TARGET 97%	