

## St. Mary's CE Primary School

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TERM DATES  
School Year 2019-20

### Spring Term

#### **First day of Term**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### **Half Term**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

#### **Last day of Term:**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

### Summer Term

#### **First day of Term:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

#### **Bank Holiday:**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### **Half Term:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### **Last Day of Term:**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

#### **INSET Day:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

# IN TOUCH

Friday 19th June 2020

Issue 554



Apologies all round—I wrote In Touch last week and failed to send it to you! I'm terribly sorry, what follows is a round up of the last two weeks, and looking ahead to the next...

In last week's In Touch I wrote that I was bowled over by the calm and joyful way that our Reception children have come back to school. Belated thanks to the new Reception staff teams who have done such a great job in settling the children back to school and to parents for reading all of the information we have sent home and adhering to the new systems and procedures so brilliantly -thank you!

Everyone at St. Mary's has been so keen to get back to school, that we are finding it hard to squeeze everyone in under government guidance. We are delighted by the news that children will be able to return to school in bubbles of 30 from September—even if we still have to keep a distance between bubbles! We have brainstormed long and hard how we can use every inch of space, every member of the team and all of our facilities—including toilets to bring back as many children as we can before the summer. Every school is different and has made unique plans for returning children to school—comparisons are futile because no two schools are the same. Some schools have been able to bring wider groups of children back because take up in the initial groups has been so low, some have chosen to ignore government guidance. It has been lovely to see such large groups of children returning at St. Mary's, but it does mean that we are now unable to invite further year groups back in the same we have others, before the summer.

I understand that parents are feeling the sustained and continued pressure of balancing work and home schooling. Some of you have asked again about virtual learning. Please be assured that we are working to harness the safe use of technology so that we can enhance our provision should we encounter a similar situation in the future and we are beginning to think about ways that we could enrich our normal offer with online learning moving forwards, so that we all become used to this way of working and could adapt to using it again quickly should we have need.

I really am very sorry not all children are back in school yet, but I'm confident that our fantastic team will be able to make up any academic shortfall caused by closures and most importantly that children are happy upon their return in September.

We have been giving some thought to how we might at least be able to see each other before we break for the summer—more news on this will be sent out next week.

I have had a request for further Head Teacher Challenges and so I will issue a further challenge each week until we reach the end of term. Look out for the first one from Monday on the school's Twitter account.

I am thinking about doing an additional recorded session for our families next week entitled: St. Mary's Round Up! I'm hoping this session will be a way for us to share news and keep up our connections. Please send any news stories, messages for other families (or for the whole school community) along with any photos or pictures you would like to share; and if we have enough for our first 'Round Up' then I will share them next week.

In addition, please keep the nominations for thankfulness stars coming—there is still space on the display board for lots more nominations before we head off for the summer break.

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

### ADVERTISEMENT

A current St Mary's family of 5 are looking for alternative residential accommodation for 3-4 months from late July. Please contact Alex (07981609506) if this may be of interest to you.

## THANKFULNESS!



Our thankfulness section of the Core Values board in the main corridor downstairs is looking very empty... So, I wonder if there are any staff/parent/carers out there who would like to nominate a child for a star on the board?

When we are in school, teachers nominate children who are demonstrating the value in practice and then we put their picture and a short blurb (30 words or less) on a star and put it on the board as an excellent example of the value in action.

If you would like to nominate a child—please send 30 words or less to:

[head@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk)—with the subject:

Thankfulness, you won't get an immediate response but I will pick the 20 most thankful examples and will put them on the board for when the children come back. I'll also share some of the stars right here in this space on In Touch each week!

Our thankfulness stars this week are: Darcey Y1 and Henry Y3 who have beautifully written thank you letters which were hugely appreciated by the recipient!