

St. Mary's CE Primary School

Head Teacher:

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TERM DATES

School Year 2023-24

Autumn Term

INSET Day: 4th and 5th Sept

First day of Term: 6th Sept

Half Term:

23rd Oct to 27th Oct

Last day of Term: 20th Dec

INSET Day: 21st Dec

Spring Term

INSET Day: 8th Jan

First day of Term: 9th Jan

Half Term:

12th Feb to 16th Feb

Last day of Term:

28th Mar

Summer Term

INSET Day: 15th Apr

First day of Term: 16th Apr

Bank Holiday: 6th May

Half Term:

27th May to 31st May

Last Day of Term:

24th Jul

IN TOUCH

Friday 8th September 2023

Issue 667



VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish
MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith
VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

Welcome back! Here we are at the start of another school year! It has been wonderful to see families new and old returning to school from the summer break, looking refreshed and raring to go! Thank you all for the thoughtful cards and gifts you sent the team at the end of the last year, they were very gratefully received. We hope that you have all had an opportunity to relax and spend time with family and friends over the break. The team here are looking forward to working with you this year.

Apart from seeing all the children, the most exciting part of the start of the year is seeing the first phase of our playground development work complete. Hugest of thanks to Fraser Water Services, or as we know them—the Kolver family—together with our play contractors who have not only done a fabulous job, but have worked tirelessly over the break to bring the project in for the start of term. The excitement and enthusiasm for the new area was evident in the children's faces on Wednesday—thank you to FoSMS past and present and our governors for all of the fundraising and support they have provided to get this project off the ground. As you will be aware, we started the development at the far end of the playground where all of our KS2 children play at break and lunch. This section was chosen because it means that all the children who are currently at the school will get to use the space as they move through the school, but also because it made sense in terms of the construction work. The new trim trail is suitable for children who are aged seven upwards and so will be used by Year Three upwards only. Children in Years One and Two will use the new polymeric surface and the pre-existing MUGA during their PE sessions and of course will be able to use the space more as they move into KS2—something to look forward to! We don't want them to tire of the space before they get to use it. Some of the families who gave generously during our bicentenary celebrations are not here to take advantage of the new equipment and spaces. We thank them for providing this opportunity for our current children. We benefit from all of the fundraising and work that came before and in some ways our current fundraising and effort creates a legacy for the future. Information will be coming out shortly about an opportunity for parent/carers to visit the new space and find out more about how we can work towards further development phases.

We have some new families joining this year. A special welcome to Scarlett, Amelia and Ava in Year Two and Rufus and Harry in Year Three. Also starting a new adventure at St. Mary's are Teaching Assistant Ms Lane-Wood and Music Teacher, Ms Fenner. I am sure you will join me and all of the team in making them feel welcome.

Existing families will know that we work closely with the Parish Team and enjoy a wonderful relationship with our Church. Don't forget that you are all warmly invited to the 10am Service on Sunday to celebrate the patronal festival of St. Mary's. Children can get their backpacks blessed for the year ahead. If your child is in Year Four or above, and they enjoy or may enjoy singing, then I highly recommend Junior Choir which runs every Tuesday from 5.30pm until 6.15pm—also at the Church. The first session is on Tuesday 12th of September and is led by the marvellously talented Richard Quesnel. Children have opportunities to sing in Church services and end of term concerts. Please contact: richard.quesnel@parishofputney.co.uk for further information.

No doubt the children will be tired after their first few days back at school. They have done a fabulous job this week and have settled well, there is an exciting buzz and I think this is going to be another supercalifragilisticexpialidocious year at St. Mary's! Have a fun and relaxing weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

Very best wishes,
Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

School Attendance 23-24

TARGET	97.0%
Week Beginning	%
04/09	96.5
11/09	
18/09	
25/09	
02/10	
09/10	
16/10	
Total:	

WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL

