



Please share this Newsletter with your child. All newsletters can be found on our website: <http://www.st-marys-bod.cornwall.sch.uk>

Headteachers Newsletter update 19th January 2024

Since returning from Christmas, all of the children have thrown themselves in to their learning with great enthusiasm and engagement. All the children are working hard to make progress in reading, writing and mathematics as well as other subjects.

As we continue on our journey in school improvement we are now turning to Attendance. Working in collaboration with Mrs Cox and in line with the DFE statutory expectations for attendance the school continually reviews the attendance policy and strategy. This review has indicated that we need to do further work with our Education Welfare Officer, Mr Dan Burbridge who works for the local Authority. He has recommended EWO meetings for those pupils whose attendance is low so that we can move forward with ensuring that they attend every day. Letters will be sent to parents of pupils whose attendance is a concern with an invitation to attend a meeting at the school.

In line with the DFE and the LA/ Plymouth CAST policy for attendance, letters will continue to be sent if your child's attendance is not at the expected level and in line with National. The national expectation is 96% so we will continue to work to that standard. Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as Persistently Absence and it is this that we are trying hard to eradicate. Pupils who have holidays also fall in this group. Whilst we understand the need for holidays we politely request that you keep holidays to a minimum.

We know that sickness is very tricky to navigate especially when there is so many different bugs around at this time of the year, but please be assured that we will send a child home if they are poorly or administer Calpol if needed. We really appreciate your continued support in helping to ensure your child reaches their true potential by attending school every day.

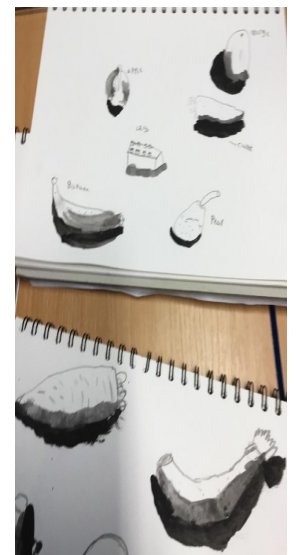
Our next focus will be on keeping children safe online. This is a growing concern for all school nationally as teachers deal with the fallout from online gaming and chat platforms on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend. Best wishes, Mrs McDonald, Mr Holmes and the team at St Mary's



Great examples from Year 4's still life art, focusing on drawing 3 shapes.

Year 5 completed visual notes in Art about the artist Saoirse Morgan, a landscape artist from West Wales. The children embraced her love of the beach, using watercolours to represent this.



Headteacher's special mention to: Year 4 for highest attendance this week! Well done.

Attendance

The expectation at St Mary's for attendance is 96%. This is the same as the Government's expectation. Attendance Counts.

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am **each day** of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.
- Write to you or call you to discuss your child's attendance if we have concerns.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we have continued concerns.



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Behaviour as Communication Workshop

This workshop introduces the concept of behaviour as communication, and aims to teach parents the reinforcement and attention rule.

The workshop will give parents practical strategies for developing more positive behaviour at home. It will also support parents to create an action plan moving forward to support their child to manage their behaviour in helpful and happier ways.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 29th January at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
 - Wednesday, 31st January at 4:00 PM
 - Thursday, 1st February at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM
- Further workshops will run w/c 11th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:

<https://forms.office.com/e/3DDPu9JHD7>



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Decider Skills Workshop

Decider Skills are a set of life skills based on cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT). The skills are aimed at helping young people to recognise and understand their emotions, and promote positive mental health. They also include basic problem solving and conflict de-escalation skills, and have a strong focus on supporting children in regulating their own emotions.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 19th February at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
 - Wednesday, 21st February at 4:00 PM
 - Thursday, 22nd February at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM
- Further Resilience courses will run w/c 18th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:

<https://forms.office.com/e/YepSO4KNBz>



Sign up will close on Thursday 15th February

DIARY DATES

End of Term	19 December 2023
Spring Term starts	4 January 2024
Inset Day	8 January 2024
Half Term	12-16 February 2024
Inset Day	19 February 2024
End of Term	28 March 2024
Summer Term starts	15 April 2024
May Bank Holiday	6 May 2024
Summer Half Term	27-31 May 2024

Breakfast Club Booking Procedure Reminder

- Login to Parentpay
- Click make a booking under the pupil's name
- Change make bookings for: ensure this is set to Breakfast
- Week commencing: select week
- Click make or view a booking
- Scroll down the page and click the date required
- Click confirm bookings
- Follow procedure to pay in basket.