

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 6: 23.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We made it ! We've reached the end of a very long half term with a huge amount in the news to keep us busy. Thank you for all your wonderful support. Our school has run remarkably smoothly during the last eight weeks and we are pleased with our very high attendance. The children are tired, as are the staff, but we are pleased with what we've achieved and looking forward to a week's breather!

I am aware that some of you are making secondary school choices, even though you haven't visited the schools, taking a virtual tour instead. It is a difficult decision but we are lucky to have a number of good secondary schools near us. They each have their own strengths and, equally, areas for development. Most of the feedback I receive from children and adults is very positive about all the schools. We haven't had our usual Friday alumni visits from year 7 this year due to Covid, but we hope to see some of them when restrictions ease.

I had a complaint about inconsiderate and dangerous parking on Bedford Street recently. We ask for your consideration at the beginning and end of the school day, especially if you are driving as we have so many small children running, scooting and cycling. There have been a few near misses and some hideous congestion. I've said it lots of times but the Donnington Bridge free car park is much the best option for a driver.

The children have all contributed to the school calendar art for 2020 – 2021, using the artistic talents of school staff and children. We've chosen to look at how some religions and cultures around the world use art to express themselves. Jo Acty, our artist in residence, has led the project and worked with many classes. The PTA have secured sponsors for every month – thank you PTA! We will get the calendars printed up and they will be on sale in a few weeks. We'll give you information on how to buy these, we're still working on it!

The outdoor basketball nets are very popular at playtime and the PTA are supporting us in the purchase of two more. We have the playground zoned for year group bubbles at the moment so two new posts will enable more children to join in. Basketball works well for turn taking and cooperation, good team skills, as well as its physical activity.

We're focusing this year on developing the broad and balanced curriculum, as well as aspiring to strong outcomes in English and mathematics. There is further detail in our School Development Plan which is now on our website. This work goes alongside the inevitable sensitivity to the pandemic, the impact of school closure and the effect of this on some children's overall well-being. This year, more than any other, needs a nuanced and flexible approach.

I hope you all get some much-deserved rest and relaxation over the half term break and I look forward to seeing you on **Monday 2 November**.

Best wishes, Liz Burton