

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 20: 11.05.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy Summer Term so far in spite of the far from summery weather! We do seem to be moving to better times with many vaccinated, at least once, and the general coronavirus data more optimistic. We've all been through a very tough year and I hope your families are coping. This transition back to the life we enjoyed takes management too. Many of us have lost the art of chit chat, often because we don't have much news to share! I think it's a time to be gentle all round and not expect too much of ourselves and others.

You will all know the big news of my replacement, starting September 2021. The governors must be congratulated on their professional and dedicated work on the appointment. It took an enormous amount of time, with lots of meetings needed, for planning a comprehensive and rigorous process. Everything ran smoothly and Bex Stott is delighted to be Mary and John's new headteacher. I will be meeting with Bex lots to hand over. I am here until 31.08.21 so there is plenty of time to enable a good transition. I am hopeful that we will return to some whole school events before I leave. The PTA are already thinking about their Summer Party scheduled for Friday 2 July which should be a great community event.

We have had two football matches recently, friendly ones against East Oxford Primary School with a year 5 boys' and a year 5 girls' team. We won both matches, a bonus, but the main thing was to actually have some competition with another school after such a long break. We have also got cycle training going with Year 6 children and swimming at the University Pool has resumed after over a year of closure. We are keen to promote as much physical activity as possible as the lockdowns, coupled with some atrocious weather, have impacted on chances to be active. Lots of teachers have planned outdoor day trips too and you've had separate letters about these.

We've had updated guidance from the Department for Education around Covid-19, received this week. The general rules around hand washing, keeping a safe distance, wearing face coverings in certain situations, cleaning regularly touched surfaces regularly and ventilating rooms are largely unchanged. There is some relaxation around residential trips which means our Year 5 and 6 can look forward to their overnight trips in the second half of term. Great news!

I look forward to enjoying my remaining time here. I want it to stretch as I can't really imagine life without Mary and John!

Best wishes,

Liz Burton