

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 23: 24.06.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and coping!

Our year 6 children had outdoor activities on Monday and Tuesday and a bouncy castle yesterday to compensate for them missing their residential trip to Wales. Staff from the outdoor centres led the activities. It all went extremely well and the children and families must be congratulated on handling the disappointment of a cancelled residential with great fortitude.

**Parent consultations.** We hope you will take up the chance to come and meet your child's teacher – at a safe distance (!) for a parent consultation next week, or the week after, to find out how they are doing at school, especially as it has been such a challenging and disrupted year.

**Staff News.** I wrote recently with news of staff who are leaving. We have appointed Victoria Tofts to follow on from Beth Gibson, our superb Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Victoria has huge experience with special needs in various schools and is very pleased to be joining us. Rosie Robins has been training with us as a teacher this year and is delighted to be staying with us as a qualified teacher when Sam Coleman, again a superb staff member, leaves at the end of this term. In addition, we have three teaching assistants who are leaving. Priya Bountra, who works in Key Stage 1, is leaving to do her postgraduate teacher training year; Hannah Cline, who works in Key Stage 2, is leaving to do a masters at Edinburgh University; Oscar Idle, ex pupil, who works in Key Stage 2, is leaving to concentrate on completing his A levels, chess and maths tuition. We are so fortunate to have a committed, dedicated team of teaching assistants, including these three, and we will be sad to see them go. We have yet to appoint new teaching assistants; we will keep you posted. We hope to have an assembly on Tuesday 20 July to say goodbye to all these staff, covid dependent of course. You can contribute to leaving gifts, if you wish, through ParentPay or cash in an envelope to the office. I think the WhatsApp network is very active too with collections but we must leave that to you!

**Camp Out.** We are looking forward to our Camp Out days next week – fingers crossed for decent weather! You have had information about these and they look set to be great fun. It is such a joy to be able to do some activities, even with school bubbles, after 15 months of serious restrictions. We are, very slowly, moving towards a more normal school. It's still disappointing, however, that we have to cancel plans, such as the PTA Summer Party, originally planned for Friday 3 July, always a great community event. A bonanza next year!

**Dates.** We will let you know your child's class teacher for next year on **FRIDAY 16 JULY** and the children will visit their new class teacher on **MONDAY 19 JULY**. You will receive your child's annual report on **MONDAY 19 JULY**.

The end of term is **THURSDAY 22 JULY** at the earlier time of **1.00** – a few weeks off yet so I'll remind you!

My very best wishes to you and your families,

Liz Burton