



St Mary's Catholic First School
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10th July 2020

Dear Parents

We are just finishing our penultimate week of this school year; our final week is next week. I hope you have enjoyed the Safety related home learning this week; for information, all the home learning that has been uploaded onto our website over the past months will be left on the site over the summer in case you wish to dip into it & use any of the activity sheets, links, etc.

Forest school – addition to School Uniform Policy

Forest School is now very much embedded in our St Mary's culture & way of learning and the children really enjoy this outdoor learning. From September onwards we will be running Forest School more often throughout the week & on different days depending on what the class are learning, etc

We have therefore added Forest School clothing to our Uniform Policy. We would ask that every child brings to school every week (for the whole week) a waterproof jacket, waterproof trousers & wellies. They can leave these items at school all week as the days they do Forest School will vary. You may wish to bring in on a Monday & take home for cleaning on a Friday and bring back the following week. We will send out an updated version of the uniform policy to you next week with this addition.

Next week we will also give you information about drop off & pick up procedures for when we return in September.

As a reminder, Kidszone will be back open from September, if you would like to book dates, have any questions about this provision, please email kidszone.office@googlemail.com



Please see below information from the Library Service about activities during the summer including a reminder of the Summer Reading Challenge:

‘On Tuesday 14 July we’ll be welcoming children’s author Ali Sparkes who will be hosting a Zoom session to talk about her experiences as a writer. Ali’s sessions are always hugely entertaining, and we hope that this virtual opportunity will reach new audiences. This is a great opportunity for children to meet a real-life artist and perhaps discover new reading choices. This is a FREE event and booking is on Eventbrite (link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/live-virtual-childrens-author-talk-with-ali-sparkes-tickets-112449942806?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>)

The Summer Reading Challenge continues online at www.sillysquad.org.uk and will run until September:

- Children register and set their own target for their challenge
 - They read or listen to books, comics etc. that make them happy!
 - Adding each completed book to their online profile will give a reward of online badges, games, and videos
 - When their challenge is complete children download their certificate
 - Children can take part using our digital lending services, or what they have at home. When libraries reopen, they’ll be able to borrow library books.
- o [eBooks and audiobooks](#)
 - o [Digital comics](#)
- Children who are not library members can join online for instant access to our digital Services. They will be sent a library card when libraries reopen.

We’re offering a range of activities to support the Challenge and keep children engaged with reading and the arts during the Summer holidays. Look out for details, which we’ll be posting on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#)

Information from the Dorset Fire & Rescue Service – Water Safety

Madam Hooch from Harry Potter (Zoë Wanamaker CBE) has read a water safety story for us! <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/safe-by-the-water/>

Aimed at Reception and Key Stage 1 children (although others may enjoy it), it can be found on the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service website, along with stories read by Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies and our firefighters.

To accompany the stories, you will find our Firefit challenges in the “Meet the Firefighter” videos, fun art and craft activities presented by Firefighter Paul in “Glue and Make” along with activity sheets to accompany each story.

As we head into summer and hopefully some nice weather, children and families are likely to spend more time in or near water, and although cool and inviting water can be dangerous and unpredictable. The stories “Safe at the Seaside” and “Safe at the River” will help young children understand what they can do to help themselves stay safe, and what to do if they do get in trouble in water.

Please have a look at our website for more child & family activities and information at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/>

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours sincerely

P. Fearn

Mrs Paula Fearn
Head Teacher