



## Newsletter #01 - Summer Term

Dear Parents,

Happy Easter from myself and all of the staff at St Mary's CE School. As we begin the school term on Tuesday, we hope the children are well and ready to start the summer term. We look forward to welcoming any new children and their families to our school. I hope that everyone will extend a warm welcome our new pupils and their families as they begin their education journey at St Mary's.

There have been many implications following the recent global pandemic. In schools across the nation (and the world) children have been affected in many ways. Often mental health and physical health have been affected. It is also widely acknowledged that both in primary and secondary schools, communications skills have been affected also.

We have been looking at research to support how we can improve the communication skills for all of our children. The impact of wearing masks has the potential to impact on use of and understanding of facial expression. It has been clear to staff in school that there has been a significant impact on speech and language development in Key Stage 1 and Early Years. Furthermore, many of our children have been impacted with their vocabulary and language use as well as the confidence and ability to engage meaningfully in conversation.

You may or may not have seen this within your own family, however collectively we have recognised the impact and therefore we feel the need to respond and support our children positively. With this in mind, we have planned weekly sessions in all classes from nursery to Year 6, to encourage the key skills of speaking and communicating with one another. With this small injection of communication lessons, we hope to boost our children's confidence and skills when speaking with their peers and with adults.

It is our hope that you will support our children as we explore these lessons each week. We also hope that you will actively encourage in depth conversations which will enhance the learning taking place this term. It has the potential to be a very exciting term.

We really believe this will have a significant impact on our children and aid in their social and academic development.

Mr Jones

Honesty



Trust



Responsibility



Perseverance



Respect



### Why are we focusing on this?

- Through effective communication skills, children express themselves clearly. It conveys their feelings in a better way.
- **Communication skills for children** can facilitate learning. Also, it exchanges meaningful information with other people, which is a must for socialisation.
- Active communicating may boost your child's IQ by helping him build healthy relationships during his social interactions with others.
- There is a chance that verbally communication may help the children to comfortably develop written communication as well. Also, it is likely to help him do better academically.
- Children suffering from communication problems may develop behavioural disorders. For example – depression, social withdrawal, and low self-esteem etc.

### What will we focus on?

#### Session objectives through this term:

<b>Session 1</b>	To consider how people show emotions using body language. To discuss emotions so that we can understand how people feel
<b>Session 2</b>	To develop good conversation skills with different groups of people
<b>Session 3</b>	To revise the skills of communicating To hold and sustain a conversation meaningfully
<b>Session 4</b>	To develop listening skills in a conversation
<b>Session 5</b>	To be able to recognise and communicate your strengths and celebrate who you are.
<b>Session 6</b>	To encourage extended communication when talking in small and larger groups.
<b>Session 7</b>	To celebrate completing the communication sessions

We hope you will see a difference over the next few months in your child's communication skills.

Important things to think about as we begin a new term....

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# Dolce – changes to payments for lunches.

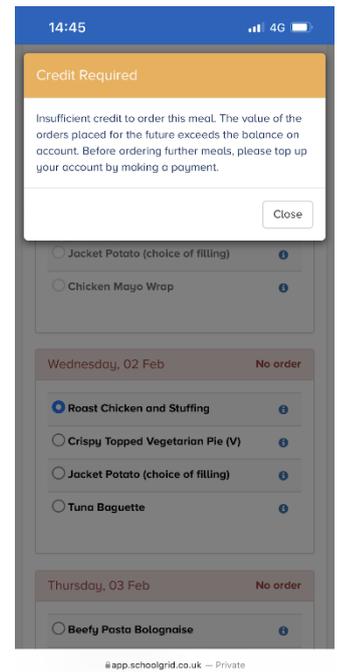
Please remember to book your child's school dinners before the start of school term. Just as a reminder we sent the following information out last term. Please be ready for Tuesday morning.

Dolce (our school meal providers) have changed the process of ordering school meals on SchoolGrid slightly and you will now require a credit on your account or have a Direct Debit set up to be able to place orders.

Please note this does not affect your account if you are entitled to Free School Meals or if your child receives Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2).

If your SchoolGrid account is not in credit or does not have a Direct Debit set up, you will no longer be able to place an order for a meal provided by the school. You can top up your account by making a card payment via your SchoolGrid account or you can set up a Direct Debit via your SchoolGrid account (if your outstanding balance is less than £16)."

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dolce Customer Care at [customercare@dolce.co.uk](mailto:customercare@dolce.co.uk) / 01942 707709



## 1 Minute White Rose Maths App



Just a reminder, if you haven't downloaded this app, this is perfect for developing the essential mental maths skills needed in maths. This free app is perfect and does not require children to have internet to access it. They have just added multiplication and division to the app. The app provides core mental maths skills which some children may have missed during the pandemic. Initially intended for EYFS, KS1 and Lower KS2, this may help all children speed up their mental maths skills or plug the odd gap they have. This is available through most app providers.

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As the app says in the title, it doesn't have to occupy the whole day – 1 minute a day will really make a difference. We continue to encourage access to Times tables Rockstars and Doodle Maths, as they target different skills.

## National Assessments 2022

As we start this term, we will only have a few weeks before the Statutory Assessments take place for the children in Year 6 and Year 2. Following this, pupils in Year 4 will be taking part in the Statutory Times Tables Assessment testing 1-12 x tables.

The children in our school have not taken part in these for the past two years. We aim to support our children and make the process as calm and supportive as possible. We hope you will continue to help with the preparations for these. This might include using the school apps paid for by school eg, **Doodle Maths, Times tables Rockstars and also utilise White Rose One Minute Maths App**. Children will continue to be provided with home learning to support the learning which takes place in school.

## Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

### Y6 Leavers Hoodies – Ready for Ordering

Each year we give the children an option to purchase a hoodie. The aim is to enable the children to have them in time for Hawes End. Ordering will be live **until** April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please follow the link to order hoodies.

[https://www.conistonshop.com/St-Mary-s-C-E--Primary-School---LEAVERS-22\\_419](https://www.conistonshop.com/St-Mary-s-C-E--Primary-School---LEAVERS-22_419)

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