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*God is at the centre of our lives and as a school community we try to grow in
love and care by following the example of Jesus*



Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new term with lots of excitement and fresh challenges. It has been a really lovely first week back with the children settling in beautifully for the new school year. Staff have been absolutely delighted by the hard work and enthusiasm shown and our new Year 6 have really set the tone in class, the dining hall and on the playground. There are lots of events ahead for the children this year and the staff at St Mary's all look forward to sharing them with you and your children!

Our words of the week are...WELCOME BACK

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help at the start of this new school year.

Let me be thankful for the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes and minds to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year will bring.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends

Help us to be caring towards one another

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

Lunch time

I would like to remind everyone to **avoid nuts** in lunch boxes whether it's peanut butter in sandwiches or bars containing nuts. Also in Key Stage 2 children are able to choose from the **delicious snack pots** as well as the traditional meals on offer. The **cost is £2.30** per meal **payable at the office** or put the **money in a named envelope**.

Meet the teacher

Our annual 'Meet the teacher' will be held on Monday 16th September straight after school. This is a great opportunity to hear about the exciting plans for the year and have a look at your child's new classroom and teacher!

Dojo

Dojo will continue to be used to **celebrate individual success in Key Stage 1** but in order to ensure variety and to develop more of an ethos of working for others we will be seeking to reinvigorate the House points system in Key Stage 2. **Dojo will not be used in Key Stage 2** but there will be a renewed focus on House points and some exciting opportunities for the children on a theme of citizenship and shared responsibility.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks

Please remember that our **first school Mass of the year is this Sunday (8th September)**. Come and join us if you can! Also on **Monday 9th the school photographer is in!**

Looking further ahead

Confirmation for Year 6 will be **19th November** for our current Year 5 children. This earlier date in the school year is due to the availability of Bishop McGough who will be conferring the sacrament.

Looking even further ahead

Many of you will have seen in the news that Bank Holiday Monday (4th May) 2020 is now **Bank Holiday Friday (8th May)** in honour of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Best wishes

Mr J Shingler
Headteacher

