



Newsletter 23rd April 2021

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COMPASSION COMMUNITY **COURAGE** CURIOSITY



Introducing you to Rafi, our St Mary's school dog.

Dear parents and children,

I am delighted to announce that Rafi will be joining our St Mary's team from Tuesday 4th May 2021. Rafi (short for Rafiki which is Swahili for 'friend') is a caramel Australian Labradoodle and is currently almost 7 weeks old. Rafi will come to school with me each day and will be owned by me and my family. He comes from a line of therapy dogs who were bred originally to support visually impaired people with allergies. The Australian Labradoodle is considered to be low allergen, being low shed and low odour. In temperament, they are calm, bright, friendly, funny and just want to please. They are often described as: 'Born to Serve'.

We will be seeking permission from every parent for their child/ren to have supervised contact with Rafi and would also like to know if your child has a known allergy to dogs and/or is fearful of them. We will be collecting this information at the start of next week. A comprehensive risk assessment has also been drawn up and will be available on our website next week. At least four other schools in our Trust have school dogs and I am sure you know about the huge benefits that a canine companion can bring to a school. Not only will Rafi provide emotional, social and personal support to our children but he will help to develop their reading, writing and physical skills.

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns (or can provide me with top tips for the puppy stage!!)

Best wishes,

Sophie Westerwijk

Dates for your diary:

Term 5
Whole school value
COURAGE

Monday 3rd May

May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th May

Environment Day

Monday 10th May

Governors Meeting

w/b Monday 17th May

Internet Safety Week

Tuesday 25th May

Share My Learning
Journey on class pages
on our website

Friday 28th May

Term 5 Ends

MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

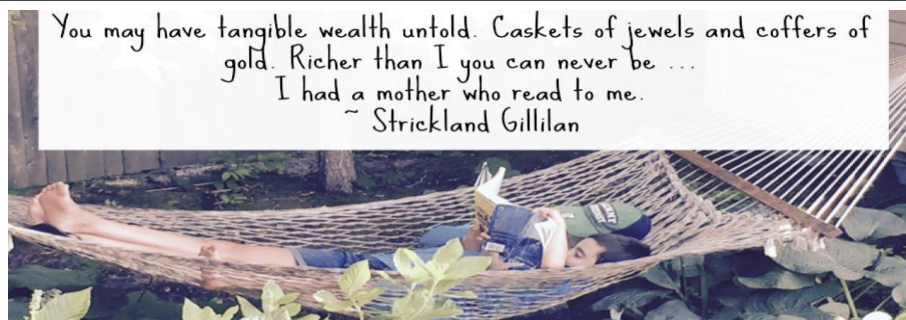


A massive thank you to our wonderful FOSMs gardeners who have given up their time to plant beautiful flowers in our planters at the front of school.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

We were disappointed not to see more parents at our teacher/parent welcome meetings on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 4pm. Despite the pandemic, we are doing all we can to keep communication strong between home and school. We sent you a parent annual planner at the start of the year which outlines these teacher/parent meetings. The newsletter also outlines all dates for the term ahead.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ATTENDING SCHOOL AND HAS ANY OF THE COVID 19 SYMPTOMS BELOW:

- ❖ High temperature
- ❖ New and continuous cough
- ❖ Loss of taste or smell

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN TO SCHOOL WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS
THANK YOU

Dates for your diary:

Term 6

Monday 7th June

INSET DAY

Wednesday 9th June

Welcome meeting

Teacher to parents

4pm via Teams

W/b Monday 14th June

Health and Well-being

Week

W/b Monday 21st June

Refugee Week

Friday 25th June

Sports Day

Tuesday 29th June

Reserve Sports Day

5th July

Governors Meeting

Friday 9th July

End of year Reports go home

Friday 9th July

Summer Fair

Monday 12th July

Share My Learning

Journey on class pages on our website

Tuesday 13th July

Transition Afternoon

1.15-3pm

Teddy Bears picnic for our new Reception children

Wednesday 14th July

Year 6 Leavers Service

Wednesday 21st July

Last Day of Term 6

