



St Mary's C of E (VA) First School
 'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Weekly Update 24th January 2014

Dear Families of St Mary's,

This week at St Mary's...

Great sporting success

Ben Broadway, Sam Baker, Josh Mullins, Jamie Powell, David Berry, Elliot Clifford, Jack Collingwood, Isabelle Jervis and Madeline Jevons competed in a very muddy cross country at Bridgewater last Saturday. Huge congratulations to Josh who came 1st and Jamie Powell 2nd in the Year3 boys' race, with David Berry finishing 12th. The boys came 2nd in the Year 3 boys team event.

SKIP2BFIT is an inter school fitness competition for Year 3 & 4
 Week 10 results
 Year 4 completed 1723 skips, that's an average of 101 skips each
 Year 3 completed 2530 skips, that's an average of 120 skips each

Green team have launched 'Operation Bottle Tops'. They want all your plastic bottle tops regardless of colour or size. They will be creating a wonderful piece of art for the school.

Year 4 won the class award this week for their lovely work based on the artist Monet. If you are in school do take a look up the corridor. There work on Monet links into to their Topic of Rivers.

Proud Awards

Nursery: all our new children!
 Reception: Robin Sales, Edward Watson
 Year1: Lucca Goddard, Jack Hardcastle
 Year2: James Sales, Rory Hunt
 Year3: Jack Collingwood, Isabelle Jervis
 Year4: Tallulah Pretty, Rhys Bradley

Good deeds

N: Amara
 R: Riad
 Y1: Henry, Flinty
 Y2: Billy, Grace
 Y3: David
 Y4: Kyle

Lost books...

If homework or spelling books are lost a charge of £1 will be required to replace them. Many thanks

Next week...

Use difference entrance!

Work begins on the boiler room on Monday. Children will come in to school via the door next to the hall fire escape in the playground. Parents should not accompany children to avoid congestion. If you wish to talk to staff please knock on the class playground door or use the link book. Many thanks

Friday : Open classrooms 3:20-3:45 – a chance to share your child's learning.

Treat Friday Year1 3:20 in the playground

Times table app

Multiplication is one of the most basic Math skills, and it is therefore very important to learn and practice. The traditional multiplication table can be made more exciting and engaging for young students if transferred to the virtual or technological world. Apps for the ipad allow users to practice their multiplication tables in fun and interactive environments, reinforcing the knowledge and skills associated with the multiplication table. a list of free apps is available at <http://www.besteducationalapps.com/news/multiplication.aspx>

Information and reminders

Cooking Volunteers

I'd like to thank the cooking volunteers who come in and cook with our pupils. We're in need of more volunteers in all year groups. If you are interested forms will be sent out shortly. If you need support with the cost of ingredients you can make a claim via the office. Many thanks for your time and support.

Water Bottles

Can parents please only fill bottles with water and not juice. Thank you.

Headlice

Many thanks to parents for checking this week. If we keep vigilante we will get on top of the problem.

Facebook

It has come to my attention that some St Mary's pupils have Facebook accounts. You must be 13 to access Facebook. Facebook and other popular social networks are filled with adult content, unfiltered comments and potential for cyberbullying, identity theft and child predators. Several companies have attempted to create safer alternatives that are essentially "Facebook for kids". These should be used as an alternative. **Facebook isn't for children.** Can I remind parents to be aware of what their children are doing on line and reinforce our esafety rules:

- **Staying safe** means keeping your personal details private, such as full name, phone number, home address, photos or school. Never reply to ASL (age, sex, location)
- **Meeting up** with someone you have met online can be dangerous. Only meet up if you have first told your parent or carer and they can be with you.
- Information online can be untrue, biased or just inaccurate. Someone online may not be telling the truth about who they are - they may not be a 'friend'
- Let a parent, carer, teacher or trusted adult know if you ever feel worried, uncomfortable or frightened about something online or someone you have met or who has contacted you online.
- Emails, downloads, IM messages, photos and anything from someone you do not know or trust may contain a virus or unpleasant message. So do not open or reply

Save the date:

Advance parent support group Thursday 13th February 7:30pm
Year 1 phonics screening meeting Tuesday 18th March 2:45pm

2015/16 Admissions Consultation for St Mary's School

All school admission authorities are required to undertake consultation on their admission arrangements if they are changing their arrangements and even if no changes are being made, they are still required to carry out a consultation at least once every seven years. As St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided (VA) School, the Governing Body is the admitting authority.

We are undertaking a consultation on our admissions arrangements for the academic year 2015/16. Details of the proposed admission arrangements are available on the school website. The consultation period is for 8 weeks, between 2 January - 28 February 2014. If you would like to make any comments, or respond to the proposed arrangements, you need to contact the school on admissions@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk Your responses will be taken into account when determining the admission arrangements. All schools must determine their admission arrangements for 2015/16 by 15 April 2014, regardless of whether a consultation has been undertaken. Determined admission arrangements will be displayed on the school's website by 1st May 2014.

Apex Dance - We are happy to announce we are running a brand NEW camp at the Parish Rooms school in Berkhamsted. The camp will run the 17th- 21st February 2014 10am-3pm daily (Early drop off available at 9AM and late pick up available at 4PM) Age's 5-12. Dance Singing and Drama workshops Arts and crafts games and prizes fantastic way to spend the Half term Holidays meeting lots of new friends and putting on a show at the end of each day to show off what you have learnt. BOOK NOW – WWW.APEXDANCE.CO.UK or Call Lucy Gaisford on 07931

Dates:

January

31st 3:20pm Treat Friday Year 1
3:20-3:45pm open classrooms

February

5th Year 2 to Paper Mill
6th 2:45pm Church- all welcome
7th 10:25 Class 3 Assembly (please note change of assembly time)
8:0pm Quiz Night!
11th 3:45-6:30pm Parent Consultations
12th Year 1 to the Science Museum
13th 5:00-7:00pm Parent Consultations
14th 5:00-6:30pm Valentine Disco

Half term- 17-21st Feb

28th 3:20pm FS Treat Friday

March

5th 2:45pm Church (Ash Wednesday)
6th World Book Day
10th Year 2 to Houses of Parliament
13th Music Concert
18th 3:20pm-3:45pm open classrooms
21st 3:20pm Treat Friday Year 4
28th Mother's Day Service (all mums welcome or a representative welcome for flower presentation)

April

4th Year2 Class Assembly
1:30pm Easter Service
2:30pm Treat Friday Year 3
2:30 FINISH