



St Mary's C of E (VA) First School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Weekly Update 7th March, 2014

Dear Families of St Mary's,

This week at St Mary's ...

It's been a very exciting week at St Mary's. On Tuesday we started our build up to Easter by celebrating Shrove Tuesday with our traditional pancake races. Thank you to everyone who brought a frying pan in. We had great fun racing in our classes and in the whole school final. The champion of champions was Oliver Drew with Madeline Morris coming second.

On Tuesday Foundation Stage were visited by Mrs Bradley in her veterinary nurse role to discuss her job and how she helps us. She also brought a friend, the tortoise, who was very popular with the children. Many thanks to Mrs Bradley for such an engaging talk for the pupils.

Wednesday we went to church for our Ash Wednesday service. The pupils reflected on saying sorry and many took to opportunity to have the sign of the cross in ash on their foreheads as is Christian Tradition.

On Wednesday we were visited by a paramedic who spoke to Reception and Year 2 as part of their topic work on people who help us and the human body.

Thursday we had a colourful World Book Day with children dressed as their favourite book characters. Thank you to everyone for all the effort. The children took part in a World Book Day assembly and classes paired up to share books with one another. Thank you to everyone who brought a book in for the book exchange. Pupils can also get a free book using their world book day voucher at Waterstones in town.

Victorian homework projects

Today pupils will be bringing home suggestions for a Victorian School Days project. We ask pupils to complete at least one task in Year R and 1 and other years to complete several or additional ideas of their own to create a project. Projects are to be handed in on the 28th March which is our Victorian day.

Update on the school expansion project

We are pleased to be able to report that the Dacorum Borough Council has approved the planning application for the building works required to expand St Mary's into a primary school.

There are no significant conditions to the grant of approval, and the planners required only very minor alterations to the plans presented to parents back in the summer term.

The timing of the work remains tight, and the expectation is for contractors to begin work on converting the existing dining room into new classrooms during the Easter holiday. We will continue to keep you updated as we progress.

Proud Awards

YN – Sadie, Chloe, Mia, Isabelle and Millie

YR – Edie, Toby, Lucas

Y1 – Thomas, Poppy

Y2 – Miranda, Emilia T

Y3 – Aimee, Taisiya

Y4 – Scarlett, Emily

Do Something Good Awards

YN - Joseph, Jasper

YR -Joshua, Emily P

Y1 – Charlie, Amy

Y2 – Max

Y3 – Isabelle

Y4 - Ella

Snacks

Fruit only for snacks, please. I'd like to remind parents we try to be a nut free school as several pupils have a life threatening allergy

Front door

Please do not bring children through the front door in the mornings. On several occasions the front door has been left open. Please ensure you close it if visiting the office as it is a safety issue. Many thanks.

Next week ...

10th March Year 2 Houses of Parliament visit

12th March year 4 Natural History Museum visit

13th March 6:30pm -7:30pm Music concert. **Children to arrive at 6pm in uniform and to meet in Y4. (guitar, recorder players and choir members!).**

14th March Y1 Inter Schools Competition 9.30 am – 12.00

Parent Forum

The deadline for parents to raise discussion points to their reps is Friday 14th March.

The reps are:

Nursery Louisa Osmond

Reception Julie Allen and Jana Toon

Year one Louise Moorby

Year two Claire Beck

Year three Ash Horton and Louise Cooley

Year four Heather Holmes and Rose Sheridan

Nursery Update

This week we had a couple of visitors; a veterinary nurse (thank you Mrs Bradley) who told the children about working at the vets. Jonathan Gordon also came to talk about Lent and Easter. Nursery children enjoyed joining in with the rest of the school for pancake races and for the World Book Day assembly during which Mrs Haezewindt read Mr Greedy.

**Save the date: Fashion Show 7th March 7.30 pm
Camping on the field 28th June**

Our Value this half term is Humility. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5-9

Save the date:

Music Concert 13th March 6.30-7.30pm.

Year 1 phonics screening meeting Tuesday 18th March

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.

Dates:

March

10th Year 2 to Houses of Parliament
12th Y4 Natural History Museum
13th Music Concert
18th 3:20pm-3:45pm Open Classrooms
Nursery Parent Tour 9.30 am
21st 2.30 pm Parent Forum
3:20pm Treat Friday Year 4
Sports Relief
28th Mother's Day Service (all mums welcome or a representative welcome for flower presentation)
Victorian Day & Victoria Sponge Bake off

April

2nd Year 3 Roald Dahl Museum
4th Year2 Class Assembly
Wear a Hat Day donations to Brain Tumour Soc.
2:30pm Treat Friday Year 3
1:30pm Easter Service
2:30 FINISH

