



S^t Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'



Update Friday 19th September 2014

Dear Families of St Mary's,

This week

All the classes have been making use of our fabulous year 6 teaching space this week. We've had circle times, phonics sessions and more going on in the beautiful space. The new rooms and resources are such a delight for pupils.

On Monday we launched our Road Monster campaign by thanking everyone who entered the design competition last term and the winners were Teddy Carroll, Maddie Bell and Rhys Bradley. We also sent out pledges for parents to sign up to. A huge thank you to everyone who has returned them it been a great show of support.

On Tuesday Year 5 visited Hazard Alley. Hazard Alley, at the Safety Centre Milton Keynes, is the first purpose-built interactive centre where children can experience 12 hazardous scenarios in perfect safety. Pupils were encouraged to identify everyday hazards and develop safe strategies to deal with potential emergencies, changing their behaviour to keep themselves and others safe. This is so important as Year 5 grow in independence and become more responsible for themselves. Also as part of this preparation on Wednesday Year 5 had an assembly with the NSPCC to discuss Childline and were introduced to Buddy the speech bubble.

On Wednesday we were visited by local author Sue Hampton, who used to teach here at St Mary's. She shared her twentieth title GORILLA DREAMS in assembly. Children in Y3, 4 and 5 have taken home details of the book and a free show. She also invited children to enter a free drawing competition which gives their imaginations room to run wild. There's a poster in school with details. Competition entry forms can be found at Berkhamsted Library, Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts or Dar Papillion (on the high street near Gossoms End). There will be an exhibition of entries at Berkhamsted Library where the prize-giving will also be held on 15th Nov. The deadline for entries is 1st November.

We also had our first school council meeting of the term. The reps this term are as follows:

Year 1 Lucinda Levene, Hugo Verstringhe

Year 2 Lucy Moorby, Oliver Miles

Year 3 Rosie Levene, Dougal Brooks

Year 4 Elliot Clifford, Jessica Morris

Year 5 Alex Speed, Madeline Morris

Thank you to the School Association for welcoming our new parents this morning with a coffee morning in the Parish rooms.

Tonight Year 4 & 5 will be singing at the Northchurch Parish council annual meeting at the cricket club at **8pm**. Carriages at **8:30pm!**

Modern foreign languages at St Mary's

We are very excited about French at St Mary's as this week Mrs Zimet introduced the staff to our new resource: Language Angles, which is designed to allow primary school teachers, irrespective of their linguistic ability, to teach French. Mrs Zimet is also introducing a Spanish club.

Achievements

This week proud awards and good deeds have been sent home for parents to celebrate. Previously we have kept books in the entrance hall; however we are aware that not all parents can visit to read them.

Headlice

We've had no reported cases so far this term – something to celebrate. Can I suggest we all check and treat as necessary this weekend to be vigilant.

Clubs

This week club letters have started to go out. Please return promptly to avoid disappointment. Many thanks.

Headteacher Recruitment

The second run of adverts for the headteacher position closed last Friday and we received three applications. At the short-listing meeting last night, we decided to take all three candidates through to the interview stage.

A panel of governors, assisted by advisors representing Hertfordshire County Council and the Diocese of St Albans, will be interviewing the candidates on Friday 26th and Monday 29th September. Mrs Haezewindt is due to leave at Christmas and for a headteacher to take up a post in January 2015, they need to have resigned their current position by 30th September.

Many of the activities we have planned for the interview day will take place in St Mary's Church and we hope to cause as little disruption to the business of the school as possible. Mrs Haezewindt will not be available on either of the interview days, as she will be off site.

The Selection Panel, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Individual Photographs

All children will be photographed separately and with siblings. If you have young ones who you wish to be photographed and not yet in school please go up to the hall at 8.30 am through the rear entrance near Reception class. Thank you.

Dates

Friday 19th 7:45pm singing at Northchurch cricket club

Monday 22nd Individual class photos
20th September – Camping on the field (new date)

Friday 26th September MacMillian Coffee morning

Tuesday 30th 8.00 pm School Association AGM

Review of Hertfordshire Continence Services for children and young people

Hertfordshire has two clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) - East and North Herts and Herts Valley. They are responsible for purchasing health services for Hertfordshire residents and they are working with consultants Navigate 2 to review children and young people's continence services. The CCGs want to find out from parents what works and what could be improved. In particular they want to hear from parents of children and young people who have used or tried to use continence services in the last two years.

Below is a link to the online survey which will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. All responses will be treated confidentially. The survey closes on the 22nd September. Here is the link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5HS9YD7>

Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 26th September – please come along after drop off to the Parish Rooms for coffee and cake to raise money for this great charity. Everyone is very welcome. Please feel free to donate a cake, homemade or shop bought. Please put cake donations into the new kitchen by the cloakroom. Thank you.

Annual Children's Bikefest - this Sunday, 21st September in Canal Fields, Berkhamsted (2-4.30pm)
The event is for children of all ages, and their parents, guardians, grandparents, etc. The event is FREE, and includes the following activities:
Cycle training for kids in a car-free area.
Cycle games and challenges, including the toddler time trial, slow races, bunny hop competitions, and more.
Information about cycle routes and facilities in the area, advice on bike gadgets and bike buying.
Bring an unwanted bike and sell it, and get a second-hand or reconditioned bike at a great price.
Demonstration of cycle skills and tricks, by national standard riders.
On-road taster rides for families to learn skills and broaden your horizons.
Bikes mended or tuned up free-of-charge (excluding parts).
Home made cakes and refreshments available.
The event is organised by Transition Town Berkhamsted, and we're grateful that it is supported by Lovelo and the Little Bike Company. More details can be found at: www.transitionberkhamsted.org.uk
Contact organiser Danny Bonnett on [07795 236402](tel:07795236402) with any questions.

Past pupils

Past pupils please join us on Monday 6th October at 9:30-10:30 or 1:30-2:30pm to take part in our living history project to celebrate 150 years of St Mary's.

Today's pupils would like to meet you and find out what the school was like when you were here.

We aim to harvest the memories and life experiences of our past pupils. In doing this, we want to ensure that this valuable social history information is preserved and made available to future pupils.

Pupils will ask questions and listen to your reminiscence to create reports and recounts as part of our project 150 years of St Marys.

If you are able to join us RSVP: admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk or <tel:01442389040>

We would appreciate donations of cakes and biscuits and several volunteers to serve refreshments if you can help please let the office know.

Term dates

Autumn Term 2014

Monday 1st September to Friday 18th December
Inset Day: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th September
Pupils Start Back: Monday 8th September
Occasional Day: 19th December
Autumn Half Term: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October
Christmas Break: Friday 19th December to Monday 5th January

Spring Term 2015

Tuesday 6th January to Thursday 2nd April
Inset Day: Monday 5th January 2015
Pupils Start Back: Tuesday 6th January
Spring Half Term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Inset Day: Monday 23rd February
Pupils Start Back: Tuesday 24th February
Easter Break: Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April

Summer Term 2015

Monday 20th April to Thursday 23rd July
Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Inset Day: 1st June
Pupils start back: Tuesday 2nd June