



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



Head Teacher: Miss V M Hunt

Update Friday, 9th January, 2015

Dear Families of St. Marys,

I should like to welcome you all back to school after the Christmas break and wish you all a very happy and healthy new year. I am so excited and proud to have been appointed Headteacher at St. Mary's and I look forward to working closely with the Staff and Governors to move the school forward. I am especially looking forward to developing a strong partnership with you so that we can all work together to give your children a strong foundation on which to build, in order to enable them all to reach their full potential.

To ensure the safety of children, please note from Monday 12th January the new arrangements for children coming into school in the morning. This will also be the same procedure at playtimes.

Teachers will come to the playground at 8.50 to greet the children, when the bell will be rung and the children are to line up in the playground in the same order as they do at playtime and lunchtime. Teachers will then escort them one class at a time inside. The children have practised this at playtime today so they will know what is expected on Monday morning. The door will then be closed and the gate locked at 8.55 after which time children should be brought to the front office.

Any messages for class teachers should be put in the children's link books. Appointments to see teachers may be made via the office or after school when staff see the children out.

The Foundation Stage children should be brought through the Foundation Stage gate as normal. For security reasons the gate must not be opened after it has been closed at 8.55. If children arrive after the gate has been closed at 8.55 they must be taken to the front office where a member of staff will deliver the late children. Thank you for your co- operation.

Can all communications for the Head be emailed through the office email admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk so they can be dealt with quickly and effectively. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Parents using the playground to drop off children to breakfast club are asked to drive slowly and carefully to avoid accidents. Thank you

Proud Awards for this week

YR - Ruby, Clara, Jacob

Y1 - Riad and Benjamin

Y2 - Jack and Mabel

Y3 -Lottie and Rory

Y4 -Grace and Madeleine

Y5 - Madeleine and Tallulah

Dates:

12th Jan 11.00 am – New Reception & Nursery
Parent visits

17th Jan 10.00 am Cross Country Bridgewater

20th Jan - Y3 Amersham Field Centre visit

21st Jan 3.45 pm – Y4 Green Park parents
meeting

26th Jan- 30th Jan – School Book Fayre

30th Jan – Y2 visit to the Museum of London

30th Jan – School Quiz night

11th Feb 11.00 am – New Nursery parent visit

16th – 20th Feb – Half Term

23rd Feb – Inset Day (no school)

24th Feb – School starts

The value for this half term is 'Endurance'

The Berkhamsted Schools Joint Travel Forum - Parent volunteer required

The Berkhamsted Schools Joint Travel Forum is a collaborative group with parent and governor representatives from Berkhamsted schools and members of the Herts CC Safe and Sustainable Journeys team. It was set up with the following aims:

- To achieve safe, independent travel to school for children in Berkhamsted
- To support and promote the use of sustainable modes of travel for school journeys, especially walking, cycling and scooting

The Joint Forum operates as an umbrella group for Berkhamsted school travel matters, identifying issues where working and acting together would better achieve the above aims. Examples of the work of the forum include helping launch the Herts County Council "Road Monster" campaign in Berkhamsted schools. As the latest part of this campaign, there are plans to shoot a music video in the town with the participation of pupils from as many local schools as possible. Ashlyns students are currently scripting and writing the music for the video with the support of industry professionals and teachers.

We don't currently have a parent representative from St Mary's on the forum, but are keen to have one, so we are looking for a parent volunteer. We will also be asking one of our governors to join the forum. Up until now, the forum has been meeting once per half term, usually during the day time. The timing of meetings has been arranged to best suit the majority of attendees. The next meeting is scheduled for 5th Feb at 9:15am (venue TBC).

If you would be interested, please contact the school office admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk

2016/17 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 school, the Governing Body is the admitting authority.

We are undertaking a consultation on our draft admissions arrangements for the academic year 2016/17. The consultation period is for 8 weeks, between 2 January - 27 February 2015.

Please refer to the school website for full details of the proposed admissions arrangements.

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.

We must determine our admission arrangements for 2016/17 by 15 April 2015. Determined admission arrangements will be displayed on the school's website by 1 May 2015.