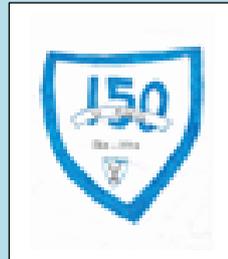




St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'



Update Friday 28th November, 2014

Dear Families of St Mary's

We've had a very good week at St Mary's ...

On Thursday our guitar students presented their terms learning to the school and their parents. Everyone was so impressed with their progress. Well done to them all.

Thank you to everyone who attended the open classrooms. The pupils do enjoy showing you what they have achieved.

Thank you to the parents who attended our E-safety presentation on Thursday after school. The internet is an exciting and fun place for adults and children to use and explore educationally and socially. The challenge for parents, carers and teachers is to make sure our children are aware and understand how to be safe when using the internet and related technologies. For a quick reference guide please see the parents' page on our website.

Today was decorations day! It marks the start of our Christmas celebrations at St Mary's. Our theme this year for decorations has been trees. Each child has produced a beautiful decoration and each class has created displays to reflect the carols we are busy learning. The school will be decorated for the start of Advent next week and for the school Fayre.

Christmas Fayre preparation

Don't forget your jars of sweets for the jar tombola, your *new to you* donations or that its non-school uniform day next Friday. We ask for bottles and chocolate donations!

After school club

The tender process took place this week. The after school club tender has been won by Pooh Corner. The variety of ideas, the child centred approach and links made to the school's ethos were contributing factors. Pooh Corner will be working closely with the school to provide an onsite after school club from 3:20pm-6:00pm. The service will commence after Easter. This will allow time for Mrs Hunt to work with Pooh Corner before the club begins and for the necessary Ofsted permissions, risk assessments etc.

Office hours

Office hours are:
8:30am to 9:30pm and 2:30pm-3:30pm .Please do not visit the office outside of these hours, either leave a telephone message or send an email.
Many thanks

Information about assessment in the new National Curriculum

As you may know, a new National Curriculum came into operation this September for children in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5. It is a statutory requirement from the Department for Education that we teach these year groups according to the new curriculum. However children in Year 2 are still working to the previous National Curriculum. From next September, all Years 1-6 will be working to the new curriculum.

One of the features of the new National Curriculum is that it no longer uses a system of numbered 'levels' to describe children's attainment. This is because it was felt by the DfE that the use of levels had at times been detrimental to children. For example, talking to children about their attainment using numbered levels could contribute towards their developing a "fixed mindset" about their ability, whereas we want to foster in all our children a "growth mindset", meaning that we believe that we can all improve our abilities with practice, effort and persistence. We would also like to further enrich our pupils' learning by developing a greater breadth of skills and knowledge, so that they are confident to apply their skills to different areas of the curriculum, rather than focus on moving to the 'next level'.

Pupils will still be familiar with their 'next steps' learning targets as a way of ensuring maximum opportunity for progress but there will be no emphasis on what numerical level they are working at.

This national change – the removal of levels – means that, **when we discuss your child's attainment with you, either in meetings or written reports, we will no longer be reporting levels***, as these no longer have any relevance to the curriculum. Instead we will refer to your child's current level of attainment using phrases such as:

- working within the expected range of attainment for his/her age
- working towards the expected range of attainment
- working below the expected range of attainment
- working beyond the expected range of attainment

We will also comment on whether your child has made good progress over the term/ year, and give details of any specific areas of the curriculum where he/she has achieved well and any areas where further development or support is needed.

The new system will be ready to report on in the spring term. In the meantime if you have any questions regarding your child's learning please contact the class teacher.

** Levels will be reported at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 this year only. After that, levels will no longer be in use for any year group.*

Midday Supervisory Assistant

We require a Midday Supervisory Assistant to help supervise our children during dinner and in the playground, to ensure a happy healthy lunch time for all. The position involves working five lunchtimes per week for 1 ½ hrs per day. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Young in the office: 01442 389040 or admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk. Visits are welcomed and strongly encouraged. We welcome applications regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or religion. St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an DBS check.

Sports news This week Year 3 completed 2560 skips. That's an amazing average of 107 skips each. In weeks they have now completed 10,000 skips.

Hot Dinners

To help your child make the best choice for them please do talk through the menu at home. It is menu two from Monday 1st Dec.

School Association – Save the date

Saturday 6th December - Christmas Fayre

Headlice

No reported cases this week, but please do check and treat if necessary and report cases to the schooloffice.