



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

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'



Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Update Friday, 16th January, 2015

Dear Families of St. Marys,

Safety in the Morning

Thank you for co-operating with the new morning procedures. Although, there is no need for children to queue right by the gate and become squashed whilst they are waiting for the gate to be opened. When the bell rings there is still plenty of time to walk safely into the playground.

Proud Awards

YR – Jed, Olivia

Y1 – Rose, Emily P

Y2 – Joe, Flinty

Y3 – Oscar, Bobby, Anna

Y4 – Bella, Jamie

Y5 – Tallulah, Henry, Ben

Dates:

17th Jan 10.00 am – Y3, 4&5 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 Fair

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

Absences

If you need to take your child out of school for a particular reason, we should be grateful if you could follow the following guidelines:

Medical appointments – whilst we would encourage all doctor or dentist appointments to be made out of school hours, if such an absence from school is unavoidable, please either put a note in your child's link book or write a letter to the class teacher.

Music exams – please either put a note in your child's link book or write a letter to the class teacher.

Other absences – following regulations introduced from September 2013, we will not authorise absences from school during term time. Any parent who feels that their request for absence qualifies as an 'exceptional circumstance' will need to put this request in writing, so that this can be considered.

Illness Notification – If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, could all parents please ensure the school is notified **no later than 9.10 am** on the morning of the absence. **This ensures that a child's whereabouts are always known by the school and prevents us having to ring parents to check that the child is safe. An answer phone is connected to the school telephone line to take calls before school starts should this be more convenient and all messages are picked up by the office staff.**

Playground Equipment Reminder

For the benefit of parents of children new to the school and as a reminder to everyone, please be aware that no children should use the playground equipment after school. The school's insurance only covers use of the equipment when it is being supervised by a member of staff.

The value for this half term is 'Endurance'

Parent Forum

There is a meeting on **Friday 30th January at 2.00 in the Y6 classroom**. Parents are invited to contact their class reps with positive matters and their issues by the 23rd January.

Miss Hunt would be very interested, as a new Head in the school, to hear what is going well and what parents are happy with, as well as other matters anyone may wish to raise. The next meetings are 20th March, 22nd May and 10th July at 2.00 p.m.

Parent Forum Reps are:

YR, Y2 – Louisa Osmond

Y1 – Julie Allen

Y3 – Claire Beck

Y4 & 5 – Louise Cooley

Parent E Safety Workshop

For the convenience of parents who were unable to join us for the workshop held in school last term, we have arranged to take part in the E Safety Workshop to be held at Westfield Primary School on Tuesday 3rd March, with refreshments at 6.45p for a start at 7pm. (It will last approximately 1.5 hours). A flier with further details will be emailed out at the beginning of February.

Snow

With parts of the UK already having their first share of this winter's snow, we thought it would be a good time to remind you of the arrangements we put in place, should we need to close the school because of adverse weather.

We will notify the local authority and this triggers an email to Three Counties Radio (103.8FM/95.5FM or 630MW/1161MW)

You can check whether the school is closed by looking on the homepage of www.hertsdirect.org.

We shall continue to use Schoolcomms if we have any other information to add as only a very short message can be included on the Herts Direct homepage. Should anyone who has not signed up to Schoolcomms and now wishes to do so, please email the school office.

We will also put a message on the home page of the school website.

Please save this information as this is how you will be contacted if we need to close the school at any time in the future.

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.

Parents Association Fundraising dates -

Book Fair - Monday 26th to Thursday 29th January - after school in hall

Valentine's Disco - 5.00 to 6.00pm in school hall -Friday 13th February (tickets available nearer the time)

Quiz - available from Tuesday 24th February for handing in on Friday 27th February