



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

Update Friday 11th November 2016

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: FRIENDSHIP

Learning to learn skill is Collaboration

Dear Parents,

St. Mary's Reading Results – We are in the TOP 6% IN THE COUNTRY

During the visit from our Hertfordshire School Improvement Partner this week, when standards and achievements were discussed and targets set, he gave us some fantastic news and asked us to share it with everyone. We were informed that our End of Key Stage 2 – Year 6 – reading test results (which is our first ever Year 6) are in the top 6% nationally. He said that this is a remarkable achievement and is due in no small part to the outstanding teaching these children have received during their time, not just in Year 6, but also in previous years in the school. This is a real cause for celebration, especially in the light of the new and challenging tests this year and the new curriculum which came into place in 2014. A huge well done, not only to all the children, but also to the teachers and parents who have supported and nurtured these children during their time at St. Mary's.

Out of school achievements

Afonso School of Performing Arts 'Sweet Dreams' showcase – Daniel W., Rose M., Poppy S., Sofia L., Millie M., Lucy M., Jack M., Harry M.

UK Gymnastics Proficiency Award Level 9 – Amara W.

Well done to all of you.

Non-uniform day for the Christmas Fair

The non-uniform day for the Christmas Fair will be Thursday 24th November, when the children are invited to bring in bottles, chocolates etc. Clean, empty jam jars or jam jars filled with sweets can also be brought in from now on. Thank you.

St. Mary's Pre-school Bulletin 11/11/16

This week, we have enjoyed talking about fireworks and creating some special artwork with our neon paints. We have been using tinsel pom-poms to 'dance like a firework'. We have also been making our own poppies from tissue paper. All of these activities form part of the children's Expressive Arts and Design development.

Next week, we shall be starting our Christmas display boards with lots of festive ideas to engage the children. We will be starting to create some Christmas cards with the children - it may seem a little early but there is lots to do. For information about a place at Pre-school, please see Lisa Burkett at the end of the school day, or email: stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

Cool to be Kind Week

National Anti Bullying week this year is November 14th – 18th. At St. Mary's we call it 'Cool to be Kind' week and we encourage kind words and behaviours rather than emphasising bullying. Attached to the newsletter is a leaflet for parents to read explaining how we teach kind behaviour in school.

World Prematurity Day on 17th November 2016

Schools in the Dacorum area are supporting World Prematurity Day on the 17th November. This is an issue particularly close to St. Mary's staff and we would also like to support this cause. If you would like to join us in this, the children can purchase a raffle ticket from the school office next week in exchange for a small donation and a prize will be given to the winner. A useful link is Herts Prems who have a 'just giving' page who explain more about the work of Watford SCBU. Thank you.

Goodbye Mrs. Bristow

Remember Mrs. Bristow is leaving us on Friday 18th November. There is still time to make a contribution to her leaving collection. Please leave this either with Miss Hunt or Mrs. Young. Thank you.

Nursery Update

We have been looking at celebrations this week. Finishing our work on Bonfire night, learning about the Hindu festival Diwali, touching on Remembrance Day and beginning preparations for our Nativity play.

Also, your children's Learning Journals are available to view now. If you have not received log in details please email me through the school office so I can check I have your email address correctly entered onto the system. Also it is worth checking spam/junk folders. Mrs. Bottali

Y5 & Y6 Level 2 Cycling

Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 pupils who passed their Level 2 Cycling Proficiency this week. They enjoyed learning about safety on the roads and proper maintenance of their bicycles.

New 2 U Stall at the Christmas Fair

Please can parents donate good condition toys, teddies or books for the above stall. A box will be left in the entrance area.

Clean, empty jam jars or jam jars filled with sweets can also be brought in from now on. Thank you. School Association.

Smartie Challenge

Can filled Smartie tubes please be returned by Wednesday 23rd November. Thank you.

Mindfulness Day

Last Friday the whole school experienced a Mindfulness Day when a visitor came to school and taught the children how to carry out mindfulness and meditation. This was designed to complement our Growth Mindset teaching. The children (and adults) commented how relaxing the day was and how much they had enjoyed it. The children will be continuing to carry out the strategies, learning to foster mindfulness in their classrooms, so that times of peace and grounding can be incorporated into everyone's school day, to help us all to concentrate, focus and be aware of our thoughts and emotions.

Children in Need Wristbands

Children in Need wristbands are now on sale from the School Office. The minimum donation for a band is £1.00.

Payment Reminders

Piano 1st half, Dinner Money, Overstrand, Woodrow. Thank you.

Y2 visit to St. Albans Cathedral

On Tuesday, Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral as part of their learning about Signs and Symbols in RE. The children were impressed by the size and beauty of the Cathedral and enjoyed an interactive tour, with some children dressing up as Alban himself, while others had the chance to sit in the Bishop's seat (called a cathedra). After lunch the children took part in a stained glass workshop. We spent some time looking at the windows around the cathedral then each child made a window of their own while sitting under the beautiful rose window for inspiration. The children behaved beautifully and were especially respectful and considerate when moving around the cathedral. Well done Year 2.

Remembrance Day Service

This morning, the children made presentations and read prayers in church to commemorate Remembrance Day. Thank you to Jonathan for leading the service and to Mrs. Archbold for organising it. The children conducted themselves with great dignity and respectfulness. Thank you also to the parents and friends who joined us to share in this moving service.

Voluntary contributions

St. Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their funding costs from central government via the local authority. In contrast to other types of maintained schools, only 90% of the capital costs of a VA school are met by the state. The foundation (in our case the Governing Body), has to contribute the remaining 10% of the capital costs. Parents are often invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools. We would like to invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per family, each term, towards the school capital maintenance fund. The maintenance contribution will be used for the upkeep of the school premises. We will report to parents at the end of the year on how the money donated has been spent. If you would like to make your first voluntary contribution starting this term please could you send this in to the office by cash/cheque made payable to St Mary's School Governors or via BACS to Nat West Bank; Sort Code: 60-02-21; Account No.: 51856859. Payments can be made each term or one payment for the year. Thank you for your continued support.

Dates

Mon. 14th Nov. – Cool to be Kind week
Mon. 14th Nov. 11.00 am – Prospective Reception Parent Tour
Mon. 21st Nov. – Y4 Speed Stacking Festival
Thurs. 24th Nov. Non uniform day and bring a bottle, chocolate etc for the tombola
Fri. 25th Nov. – Occasional Day – No School

Please note the school is closed for an occasional day on the 25th November in line with other schools.

Attachments – German Christmas Market, Christmas themed cycling event, Cool to be Kind Week booklet, Performing Arts Christmas booking

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK BOOKBAGS

Title	Class	Via
Smartie Challenge – School Association	All years	Letter
Volunteers for Lions’ Santa Sleigh – School Association	All years	Schoolcomms
Parent Governor Elections	All years	Schoolcomms
KS1 Christmas Play	Years 1 & 2	Letter
Christmas Card payments – School Association	All years	Letter

Please contact the office if you did not receive one of the above letters