



S^t Mary's C of E Primary School
'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 17th November 2017
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Peace
Learning to learn skill is Curiosity

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Joshua S has passed Stage 3 swimming level.
Emily B has been awarded Gymnast of the Week
by Sapphire Gymnastics.
Congratulations to you both.

Celebrations Assembly

The Special Achievers certificates went to:
Reception: Leila and Hayden
Year 1: Cian and Pippa
Year 2: Finley and Poppy
Year 3: Daniel and Gemma
Year 5: Charlie and Ollie
Year 6: Billy & Isabella
Well done to all of the children.

Football

The school football team recently played a match
against Little Gaddesden. Both schools played with
a brilliant attitude and showed good
sportsmanship. Little Gaddesden won the game 6-
2. Well done everyone who played. Mr Potter

Cool To Be Kind Week

This week is Anti Bullying Week and we have been
focusing on Cool To Be Kind in school. The theme
this year has been 'All Different, All Equal' and the
teachers have been talking about this in
assemblies. All the classes have done lots of work
on being kind to one another, including what
kindness means, being a good friend, kindness
diaries and making posters about being kind and
cyber bullying. We hope that the children will
continue working on being kind to one another
and being friendly to all.

Absences

Please inform the school office by 9.00am if your
child is absent from school. A message must be left
for each day of absence. This is for Safeguarding
purposes.

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought
into school.

Open Classrooms - Monday 4th December

Open classrooms for the whole school will be
taking place on the above date. The Nursery
session will commence at drop off and last for 20
minutes. The sessions for the rest of the school will
take place from 3.20 to 3.40 p.m. This is an
opportunity for you to visit your child(ren)'s
class(es) to look at their books and to share in and
celebrate the work which has been taking place
during the past half term. All parents/carers are
welcome to attend these sessions.

Non-Uniform Day

Friday 1st December will be a non-uniform day and
the School Association have requested donations
of bottles for the tombola at the Christmas
Fair. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Maths Evening - save the date.

We will be holding a maths evening for parents
on Thursday 7th December, from 6.30pm until
7.30pm. The evening will be an opportunity for
parents to watch their children's teachers
demonstrating the methods taught at school, in
order to help them to support their children with
maths at home. This will be for adults only.
Thanks, Mr Potter

Road Safety Week – 20-26 November 2017

This year the main theme is 'Speed Down, Save
Lives'.

Speed has been identified as a key risk factor in
road traffic injuries, influencing both the risk of a
road crash as well as the severity of the injuries
that result from crashes. An increase in the
average speed of 1m/h typically results in a 3%
higher risk of a crash involving injury, with a 4-5%
increase for crashes that result in fatalities (World
Health Organisation)

Find out more about the week at

<http://roadsafetyweek.org.uk/>

and take the pledge

<http://roadsafetyweek.org.uk/pledge>

Follow us @roadsafetyherts #roadsafetyweek

And keep safe!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Well done to everybody who brought in a shoe box for the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged with the cause and get involved with such enthusiasm. We have donated a very impressive 62 boxes. The staff helped me load my car up with them on Friday after school and they only just fitted in the boot! Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas a happier one. If you wanted to get involved but missed our deadline you can still pack a box online: <https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

Many thanks,
Mrs Archbold.

Many thanks from us all to Mrs Archbold for organising the appeal.

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 pay 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.

Rock Steady Assembly

This will be held at 9.10am on Friday December 1st for all parent/carers of children attending Rock Steady sessions.

Snow Closure System – please register now

Parents must register with [Hertfordshire's School Closure Notification System](#). Once registered, the system will advise of any school emergency closure. For further details please refer to the attached letter.

Parking in Shaftesbury Court - Please be considerate

For any parents who are not aware of the position, historically the residents of Shaftesbury Court allow parents access through the gate via the bridge at drop off and collection times only. However, this is on the strict understanding that parents do not abuse the kindness by parking in Shaftesbury Court. Access is required at all times by the residents and for emergency vehicles. Residents have complained on numerous occasions that parents are parking in this area and blocking access. If this continues they will prevent the school from using this entrance and parents will have to walk the long way round. Parents need to park further away and walk the extra distance if they want to use this gate. Please be considerate when parking your car.

Pre-school Bulletin 17/11/17

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed some mathematical activities. We have used the toy farmyard and all the farm animals to demonstrate positional language, such as 'inside, outside, above, below, next to' etc. We have then asked the children to tell us which one is bigger or smaller, and if they could count the number of farm animals that we give them.

We have also enjoyed some puppet shows and have loved the children joining in the Gingerbread Man with great gusto! This forms part of their literacy development.

The pine cones we had for our autumn display have now been dipped in glitter and turned into sparkly Christmas decorations. Next week, with only four weeks until the end of term, we shall be making a start on our Christmas cards!

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

School Office

The school office opening hours are:

08:30 – 09:30

14:30 – 15:20

Please avoid contacting the office outside of these times. Thank you.

Late Box

Please use the box provided in the school entrance for any items brought in after the start of the school day. Please ensure all items are named.

School Gateway

St Mary's is now a 'cash free' school. **This means that we will no longer be accepting payment in cash or cheque.**

Please make all payments via School Gateway. Please report any issues to the School Office.

Please check your School Gateway account regularly for payments due. Breakfast club appears for all children in case of emergency requirement. Please ignore it if you do not use Breakfast Club. The same applies for Dinner Money for Years 3-6. Thank you for your continued support.

Breakfast Club

Parents arriving after 8.00 a.m. please use the main entrance to the school.

Please contact Breakfast club via email

breakfast.club@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk

Diary Dates

24th November – Year 4 Treat Friday

27th November – Occasional Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

29th November - Prospective Parents Reception
Tour 11:00am - Tour full

1st December – Rock Steady Assembly – 9.10am

1st December – Non-Uniform Day

4th December – Open Classrooms

6th December – Nasal Flu Vaccinations (R-Y4)

7th December – Maths evening

9th December – Christmas Fayre

12th December – FS Play 9:30am

13th December – KS1 Play 5:30pm

13th December – Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

14th December – KS1 Play 9:30am

14th December – KS2 Carol Service 6:30pm

15th December - Christmas Secret Room

19th December – End of Term 1:30pm

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

| Title | Class | Via |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Year 1 & 2 Trip to London Zoo | All | Email |
| Santa's Grotto – School Association | All | Paper copy in book bag |
| Secret Room – School Association | All | Paper copy in book bag |

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

Next newsletter on Friday 1st December.

I hope you all have a relaxing and happy weekend.

V. M. Hunt.