



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 1st December 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

George D has passed Stage 2 swimming level.

Mia and May and have been awarded a St John's Ambulance Badger Promise certificate, Badger First Aider certificate and Eco Badger certificate and Phoebe made her Badger promise.

Harry M is very excited to be taking part in The Adventures of Pinocchio at The Little Theatre by the Park in Chesham.

Elodee and Paige held a cake sale at their house to raise money for the Hospice of St Francis and the Cerebrospinal Fluid Leak Association. They raised a total of over £50 to be split between the charities.

Congratulations to you all.

Celebrations Assembly

The Special Achievers certificates went to:

Reception: Jonathan, Rosie

Year 1: Freya and Paige

Year 2: Farida and Ruby

Year 3: Jake and Maya

Year 4: Felix and Mason

Year 5: Amy and Luke

Year 6: Emilia and Louis

Well done to all of the children.

Netball

Congratulations to the girls' netball team in their recent league matches against Lime Walk when St Mary's won 8-3 and against Brockerswood when they drew 8 all. Really well done to everyone who played.

Football

The school A football team recently played a match against Grove Park. It was a tight game with the score level at 2-2 and then the boys pulled together and managed to score a cracking goal, Dougal taking a free kick and then a soft touch from Jack H putting the ball in the back of the net. The final score was 4-2 with goals from Oliver T, Jack H, Luke B and Rory H. The B team also won 4-3. Well done everyone who played. Mr Potter

September 2018 Reception

If you have a sibling of a current St Mary's pupil who is due to join our Reception cohort next September, please do complete our Supplementary Information Form under the admissions tab on the school website, or collect one from the office and return it as soon as possible to the office. This will ensure that your sibling is considered under Criteria 2 of our Admissions Policy 2018.

Applications for Reception places next September must be made before 15 January 2018.

Year 1 & 2 Trip To London Zoo

Yesterday, years 1 and 2 had a fantastic time at London Zoo in the snow! We were taken around the different parts of the Nativity story by the Wise Men, Mary and the shepherds, learning lots of interesting facts about the animals as we journeyed. At the end of our session, we even met a very special person- Santa Claus! After eating our lunch quickly due to the cold, we had time to explore the rest of the zoo and saw lots of wonderful animals. We all had an exciting day and were exhausted at the end of it!

Miss Gore, Mrs Zimet and Mrs Stewart

Year 4 Trip To Bhaktivedanta Manor

Year 4 visited Bhaktivedanta Manor as part of their learning about Hindu beliefs and worship. The children had a very busy day, starting with a tour of the beautiful gardens, including the George Harrison Garden where they searched for song lyrics. They were also treated to a bullock cart ride and were able to feed the cows while they learnt why the cow is scared to Hindus. Inside the temple they were told about the main Hindu deities and how they care for the world. Then it was time to dress up, get our faces painted and watch the daily prayers in the shrine room. The children were surrounded by beautiful sights, sounds and smells and were mesmerised! After that the children were more than ready for the traditional Indian lunch, which was enjoyed by all. There was just time for a story before coming back to school. The children had a wonderful time and behaved beautifully. The guides for the day commented on how thoughtful the children's questions were and how well they listened. Well done Year 4! Mrs Archbold

Year 5 Trip To National Space Centre

On Tuesday 14th November, Year 5 visited the National Space Centre in Leicester to help learn about their topic of "Earth and Space". Their day involved a Planetarium show, NXT Mars Rover Workshop, and a trip up the famous "Rocket Tower". The children all agreed it was a great day out! Mr Potter.

Year 6 Trip To Hemel Hempstead Fire Station

On Wednesday the 15 November, Year 6 had a fantastic trip to Hemel Hempstead fire station. We found out how a fire station operates, what firemen do and a lot about fire engines.

But that was not all: year 6 got to dress up in firemen's gear.

Just when we were about to see some water action, the siren rang and the behaviour of the firemen changed. They were focussing on getting out to a fire in 90 seconds. It was as if nothing else existed any more (including us). Left to our own devices we changed back into our clothes and put everything away as best as we could before making our way back to school.

It may seem unlucky that our trip got cut short a bit (but only by about 30 minutes) but who ever gets to see firemen in action, getting ready and shooting off to help? Mrs Dobbs

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.

Maths Evening – postponed until 24th January

Thank you for the parent comments that the 7th December date was not convenient given the busy time of year. We will now be holding the maths evening on Wednesday 24th January, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Please save the date. Apologies to the parents who have already replied that you can come. We hope the new date will be more convenient for everyone.

Thanks, Mr Potter

Homework Club

There are still a few places left in Homework Club after school every Monday. Please contact Mr. Potter if your child wishes to attend (Years 3 to 6 only).

Christmas Post Box

The post box will be ready for use on Monday 4th December. Children are invited to post their cards at a convenient time when in school (not in lesson time). Year 6 children will deliver them each lunchtime. Please ensure that the envelopes are clearly labelled with the full name of the child and class for whom they are intended, and that the card includes the name of the child who wrote it. Nursery and Reception children should give their cards to EYFS staff who will organise suitable times for delivery. Please do not come to the front office before school to post cards.

St. Mary's Christmas Fayre – Sat. 9th December 11.00 am – 2.00 pm

Please come along with your children to the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th December. There are many exciting stalls and games for adults and children alike. We appreciate your support.

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper instead of a school jumper or cardigan on the day of the school Christmas lunch – Wednesday 13th December. The school will be collecting voluntary donations of £1 per child for The Hospice of St Francis. Thank you to everyone for your support. The School Christmas lunch will be served to all who normally have a school meal or who have requested a Christmas lunch.

Children In Need

A big thank you to the School Council and Year 5 & 6 girls for organising the cake sale for Children in Need. The cake sale raised £145.25; thank you for supporting this event.

Christingles

Please could every child bring an orange into school on Tuesday 19th December as we are making our Christingles. Thank you.

Music Lessons

Please note that a full half term's notice is required to cancel a music lesson.

Rocksteady Assembly

The children enjoyed performing at the Rocksteady assembly this morning. If your child is interested in starting Rocksteady's in-school rock band music lessons, then please contact the School Office for further information.

Absences

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

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

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.

Ashlyns Admission Arrangements Consultation

The Governors of Ashlyns are consulting on a change to their Admission Arrangements from September 2019. More information can be found on the school website:

<https://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/school-life/admissions/>

They would be grateful if you could send any comments you have on these arrangements via email to governors@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk or by post to Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3AH. Responses should be sent no later than 5 January 2018. The Governors will be meeting after this date to determine these arrangements.

West Hertfordshire Teaching School Partnership

Are you a graduate interested in pursuing a rewarding career as a primary school teacher? Why not train locally with the West Hertfordshire Teaching School Partnership. They are very experienced at training teachers and are looking forward to developing the next generation of inspiring classroom practitioners. All their trainees finish the course as good or outstanding teachers with 100% of them employed in local schools, many before they finish training! Contact them for further information email: admin@westhertsteachingschool.org.uk or visit our website www.westhertsteachingschool.org.uk

Pre-school Bulletin 30/11/17

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed making our Christmas decorations and Christmas cards. The children have all practiced using scissors, glue, sellotape and numerous different methods, materials and media.

They have also been 'writing' their names, practising holding the pencil correctly and making marks on the page as emergent writing.

Our Christmas display continues to grow each week, with stockings, stars, snowmen and candles all looking very sparkly and festive. We have also been learning our special songs to sing to our parents and carers before the end of term.

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 – 09:30am

14:30 – 15:20pm

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 Reminder

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 ensure that you have returned your Spring Term Breakfast club requirements by Monday 4th December.

Please contact Breakfast club via email breakfast.club@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk

Diary Dates

4th December – Open Classrooms

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

9th December – Christmas Fayre

12th December – FS Play 9:30am

13th December – Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

13th December – KS1 Play 5:30pm

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

4th January – Start of Spring Term

4th January – Spring term guitar lessons start

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Spring Term Milk	All	Email
Minutes of the parent forum meeting on 10 th November	All	Email
Swimming Lessons for Year 3 & Year 4	Year 3 & 4	Email
Maths Evening	All	Email

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

Next newsletter on Thursday 14th December.

I hope you all have a relaxing and happy weekend.

V. M. Hunt.