



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 20th October 2017

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: Justice
Learning to learn skill is Creativity

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Benjamin A achieved the 7th Kup Yellow Belt and Samuel W achieved the 8th Kup Yellow Belt in Tae Kwon-do.

Lexie M won Gymnast of the Month and competed in the club championship.

Callum finished 7th overall in the Eastern Region Triathlon & Duathlon series which took place between March-October this year. Races took place in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Essex, Cambs, Suffolk & Norfolk. Callum is a 1st year so will be competing in the same age group next season.

Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Jenna, Tristan

Year 1: Zennor, George

Year 2: Oliver, Harry,

Year 3: Phoebe, Layla

Year 4: Edie, Ffion

Year 5: Henry, Flinty

Year 6: Carson, Miranda

Well done to all these children.

House Captains

Dragon: Grace & Dougal

Griffin: Lottie & Zara

Phoenix: Carson, Violet & Anna

Unicorn: Oliver & Max

Staffing News

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bottali at the end of the Autumn term. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please see the Office.

Mrs Brown will be joining the team as Nursery teacher in January.

Nursery Update

We have been learning about rhyming words and initial sounds, patterns, shapes and numerals. We have celebrated Diwali; learning a few dance moves, tasting some Indian food and sweets and decorating rangoli patterns. A parent came in to teach the children some French words; colours and greetings which the children really enjoyed. Mrs Bottali.

Film Club

The school would like to thank the School Association for all of their hard work in organising and running the recent Film Club. They raised £385 for the school.

Year 1 Visit from Bert Hosier

Last week Bert Hosier, a local resident who has lived in the Northchurch area for almost 90 years, came to speak to year 2 about his memories of attending St Mary's School in the 1940s. The children enjoyed listening to how the school and lessons were different and they even looked at Mr Hosier's school reports! The children were very interested to find out that the girls and boys had to play separately and that if the children did not behave, they were made to write lines during play time or even had the cane! Mrs Zimet.

Year 3 and 4 Cross Country (1K)

Last week 17 children took part in the Y3 cross country. We had 11 girls in the Year 3 race who all kept going for the full distance. Congratulations to Scarlett for achieving 3rd place and Martha for 4th. In the Year 3 boys' race we had 6 competitors; Joseph came 7th. In the Year 4 girls' race we had only 2 competitors, but in a photo finish Mollie managed to gain 1st place, and Charlotte was 5th. In the year 4 boys' race we had 5 runners, with Olly finishing 2nd. All our runners were a credit to the school; well done to all of you. Mrs Christie.

E-safety Talk

Thank you to those who came to the eSafety talk for parents last week. It was, as always, very informative and eye opening to see what our children are exposed to with all today's technology and how we can help to keep them safe and educated about using all their devices. A big thank you to Will Alderson from Microsoft who gave up his time to come in and talk to all classes from Reception to Year 6 and then came back in the evening to talk to parents. An abridged version of his presentation is now on the e-safety section of our [school website](#).

Thank you to Miss Gore for organising the day.

Parent Forum

We have our next Parent Forum meeting on Friday 10th November. If you have anything that you would like to raise for discussion, please contact your Parent Forum Rep by 3rd November. The parent reps are:

Nadia Lupo (Reception)

Tracy Webster (Year 1)

Julie Allen (Year 2)

Sarah Jones (Year 3)

Louise Cooley (Year 4)

Su Bennett (Year 5)

Lesley Bartholomew (Year 6)

Attendance

Nursery achieved the highest attendance last week (9-15 October) with 99.12%. Well done Year Nursery.

Volunteers Needed for Reading

We still need a few more volunteers to hear children read throughout the school. If you have an hour or so to spare during the week we would love to hear from you. This is subject to the usual DBS checks. Volunteer induction and guidance will be provided. Please contact the office if you are interested. May we please remind you that unless it is to accompany your child's class on a school trip, then volunteering in school would be in a class other than that of your child(ren). Many thanks.

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.

School Meals – New Menus

The new school meal menus were sent home last week and come into effect after half term. Please spend some time going through the menu with your children as this will help them when they come to make their choices each day with their class teacher. Please note that the school has decided not to offer egg roll as an option. This will be substituted with cheese roll. If your child wishes to change their current meal pattern after half term, ie to or from school dinners, please let the office know on Monday 30th October. May we remind you that there is a required one week notice period.

Road Safety - Thank you for helping to keep our children safe

In view of the recent serious accident, we would like to remind parents to set a good example to the children and reinforce the road safety message at home. Please remember to use the pedestrian crossing on the High Street or the School Crossing Patrol on New Road.

Secondary School 2018

Applications for secondary school places opened on 1 September for all our year 6 children.

We have sent home a 'Moving On 2018' leaflet to support you with your application. You will be able to apply on-line by visiting www.hertsdirect.org/admissions. Please note that the **closing date for applications is 31 October** and all paper applications should be sent direct to the Admissions and Transport Team, not the school office.

We are aware that our Year 6 children could be visiting prospective secondary schools, during their open days. If you wish to take your child on one of these visits, please let the school office know, so that the registers can be marked accordingly.

If your child normally has a school dinner, please ensure that their choice for the day of their visit is recorded with the office, if they will be returning in time for lunch.

St. Mary's School Association

AGM

The Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday evening. Please find attached the Minutes taken, together with the Treasurers and Trustees Report.

Bags2school

You should have all received a Bag2School pack in your child's book bag last week. If you didn't then please feel free to use a bin bag from home. Over the holidays please fill your bags with good quality second hand clothing. Items such as adult's and children's clothes, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys. Please DO NOT include bedding, curtains, towels, household linen or bric-a-brac.

All bags will be collected on the morning of **Thursday 2nd November** from the grass area to the left of the school front gates. Please do not drop them off before 2nd November as we have nowhere to store them.

All bags are weighed and the school will receive money from the total weight collected. Remember the more we collect the bigger benefit to our school.

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

Berkhamsted Fireworks

Advance tickets are available from the School Office for the Berkhamsted Fireworks evening. The cost of tickets are £7 adults, £5 children and £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and max 2 children). Please see the flyer attached to with the newsletter for more details.

Vacancies

Ashlyns currently have a vacancy for HR / Cover Officer. [Click here](#) for more details.

Diary Dates

23-27th October – Half Term
 2nd November – Bags2School
 3rd November – Year 5 Treat Friday
 10th November – Remembrance Service 9:30am
 10th November – Parent Forum Meeting
 13th November – Prospective Parents Reception Tour 11:00am
 24th November – Year 4 Treat Friday
 27th November – Occasional Day, SCHOOL CLOSED
 29th November - Prospective Parents Reception Tour 11:00am
 1st December – Rock Steady Assembly
 1st December – Non-uniform day
 4th December – Open Classrooms
 6th December – Nasal Flu Vaccinations (R-Y4)
 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

Attachments

DSPL 8 Understanding ADHD for Dads Parent Carer 31.10.17
 DSPL 8 Understanding Autism for Dads Parent Carer 28.11.17
 DSPL8 Understanding Sleep Issues for Parent Carers 21.11.17
 Junior Indoor Hockey
 NHM October Half Term
 School Association AGM Minutes - 17th October 2017
 SA Trustees Report 2017
 SA Treasurers Report 2016-2017

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Year 2 Southbank Trip	Year 2	Paper & Email
October 2017 Parent Governor Elections	All Years	Email
Samaritans Purse	All Years	Email
Ofsted Report	All Years	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 3rd November.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing half term.

V. M. Hunt.