



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

Update Friday 21st October 2016
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: HOPE
Learning to learn skill is Curiosity

Dear Parents,

Special Achievement Awards – Growth Mindset

YR – Jessica, Zennor, Cian and Maverick
Y1 – Henry, Daniel, Esme and Poppy
Y2 – Bailey, Lucas, Daisy and Martha
Y3 – Amelie, Felix, Henry and Teddy
Y4 – Oliver, Adam, Poppy and Flinty
Y5 - Louis and Emilia
Y6 – Maddie, Madeleine, Olly and Eddie

Out of school achievements

Jamie – 2nd place Tri Start 2 at Tri-Force Triathlon Club Junior Championships
Callum – 1st place Tri Start Junior Championships
Grace – 8th Kup Yellow Belt Tae Kwon-do
Billy Read – 8th Kup Yellow Belt Kwon-do
Phoebe G. – Ross & Andy Football Player of the Term
Macy H. – Ross & Andy Football Fair Play Award

Well done to all of you.

Message from Admissions -

REMINDER: Secondary Admissions 2017

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary and upper schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of **Monday 31st October 2016**. It is recommended that parents complete applications by Friday 28th October, as there will be limited support available over the weekend for anyone having trouble applying. Parents should apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or alternatively if they cannot access the internet, they can request a printed version of the website information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

St Mary's Pre-school Bulletin 14/10/16

This week, we have enjoyed painting our lovely clay hedgehogs and have made some great collages to go on our autumn display board.

We have loved the Indian style music and movement as the first part of our Diwali activities, and some children were brave enough to try a henna hand design.

Next week, we shall be making and decorating our clay diva pots with sequins and jewels. These little candle holders form part of the Diwali celebrations.

St Mary's Pre-school Bulletin 21/10/16

This week we have been finishing off our clay diva lamps and decorating them with sequins and jewels. Our Diwali celebrations have been a hit with the children, particularly the Indian style music and movement. We have some very talented dancers amongst our Pre-school.

The autumn display board was finished and we enjoyed inviting our parents in to have a look at our beautiful work.

We have had a wonderful first half term with lots of lovely activities for the children to enjoy with their Pre-school friends.

We all wish you a happy and restful half term break. 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

Autumn and Spring Menu

The menu has been sent home ready for the start of next half term. Please take time to have a look at this with your child/children. Thank you.

New Gates in the Foundation Stage Garden

The new gates have now been installed in the F.S. garden. The height of these gates has been increased and the area made more secure.

Sporting News

Dacorum Cross Country Runs

St. Mary's excelled once again at the Dacorum Cross Country Championships at Ashlyns School.

A huge well done to the children from Years 3 – 6 who represented the school. They were:

Year 3 – Olly C. 2nd place

Year 4 – Poppy B. 1st place, Callum P. 1st place Luke B. 2nd place, Zara H. 18th place

Year 5 – James S. – 2nd place, Bella W. 6th place

Year 6 – Lucy C. 2nd place, Olly P. 4th Place, Jamie P. 5th place, Jess M. 6th place

This is an amazing achievement by our runners and the results show what a great impact Mrs. Cooley and the running club team are having. We are all very proud of you. Well done. Mr Potter

Maasai Warriors visit

Last Friday we were treated to a performance from the Osiligi Maasai Warrior Tour. The children watched spellbound as the seven performers sang and danced for us and explained the history behind the songs. The culture of the Maasai people was shown through lullabies, whistling songs to herd their livestock, hunting dances and the famous jumping from the Maasai men. Both children and adults were involved in the performances. We were all very impressed with Mr Potter, Miss Waterhouse and Mrs Heck's jumping. The children learnt about the Maasai's home life in Kenya and some of the projects that have been carried out using the money they raise on tour. The whole school was buzzing from the visitors and the feedback from the children was wonderful. They were fascinated by the Maasai way of life and all seemed to have learnt a lot from the experience.

Following the hugely positive feedback we have received concerning the Osiligi Maasai Warrior visit to school, parents may be interested to know that the final performance of their UK Tour will be on Sunday 30th October at St. Albans Cathedral at 2.00 p.m. Please follow the link <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/music/the-osiligi-maasai-troupe-concert> Mrs. Archbold

Y5 visit to the National Space Centre

On Thursday 13th, Year 5 went on a visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester. We had a fantastic day out, during which we programmed NXT Rovers in our Mars Workshop, learned how to be an astronaut in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium, climbed to the top of the Rocket Tower and experienced the many excellent galleries. The class were beautifully behaved and really enjoyed the experience.

Bronze Ambassadors and Activity Leaders

Congratulations to our four Year 6 children, Jamie, Ollie, Lucy and Grace, who have undergone bronze ambassador/sport leader training. The Academy is a leadership club designed to provide high quality support, training and development for young people that are committed to actively volunteering within the school. They took part in team building games and leadership training on delivering school competitions and activities. They will be making plans to put their skills into action next half term. Mr. Potter

Nursery Update

We had the Maasai Warriors visit last Friday. It was a very special visit and the Nursery children learnt about the Maasai culture, where they live and even sang along to a couple of songs with them. This week we have made pumpkin soup to support our learning about the book we have been focussing on. The outside role-play house is now a builder's yard and the children are really enjoying it. The water area has also evolved into a kitchen area and the children have been busy concocting potions, making cakes and similar delights. If you have something that would develop either of these areas further please talk to a member of the Foundation Stage team.

A Bookstart treasure gift has come home in your child's book bag this week. In it you will find a book for you to share with your child and to keep and a short guide on reading with your child. As you are probably already aware, sharing lots of books with your child is very important to his or her literacy development. Mrs. Bottali

NSPCC Speak Our Stay Safe Programme

On Thursday afternoon the children in Years 5 and 6 took part in NSPCC workshops, during which they discussed how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. If you would like to find out any further information please visit the NSPCC website. There are also some spare 'Your child's online world' parent guides about keeping children safe online in the office if you wish to collect one.

nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you all very much for attending the parent consultations this week. We are pleased the on-line booking system has been such a success and appreciate the lovely comments on the post-it-note feedback board.

Berkhamsted Fireworks

Tickets for the annual Rotary Club fireworks go on sale after half term. Please buy your discounted tickets from the school. For every ticket bought the school makes £1.00. Family ticket £20, Adult £7.00 and child £5.00. Thank you.

Parking outside the school

On no account must parents stop on the yellow lines and the zigzag lines outside the school. They are put there to keep the areas clear of cars so children are kept safe. Traffic Wardens have been patrolling and are issuing tickets if they see cars parked on these lines. Thank you.

School Association AGM

Last night the School Association AGM was held in the school hall and the new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were elected. The staff would all like to say a huge thank you to the outgoing Chair – Amy Goss, Treasurer – Sarah Bradley and Co-Secretaries - Donna Walker and Annabel Carroll for all their amazing hard work and fund raising activities for the children and the school during their time in office.

Gates into the top playground

Can we remind parents that they can safely access the school grounds through the gates in the top playground near the Year 6 classroom. These gates are unlocked in the morning and at the end of school. Parents can then walk through the church yard to the playground gates.

Paperless communications

In order to cut down on the amount of paper generated by the school we are aiming to become a paperless school. From the beginning of next half term all communications and letters home will be delivered by Schoolcomms. We will not require separate permission slips, we only ask that parents tick the permission box on Schoolcomms. Copies of all letters sent out will be kept in the school office if parents require a paper copy.

We also hope to cut down on the amount of cash and cheques used and ask parents where possible to pay for dinner money, trips etc. on Schoolcomms. Thank you.

Hygiene

In school the children are encouraged to wash their hands before lunch and after using the lavatory. Can parents please ensure this happens at home so we can cut down on germs that get passed around. Thank you.

Bishop's Harvest Appeal

Every class came to school today dressed in their school colours to raise money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. In assembly the children made a beautiful rainbow and the money donated will go towards Water Aid in Madagascar. Thank you for all your generous contributions. Mrs. Archbold

Year 5 Maths Challenge

A big well done to our Year 5 children, Lily, Phoebe, Anna, James and Bella, who did very well in the Maths Challenge at Ashlyn's School on Wednesday. They all gave it their best and worked well together as a team.

Half term – 24th Oct – 28th Oct
Inset Day – 31st Oct
Children return to school Tues. 1st Nov
Occasional Day – 25th November

We hope you all have a very happy and relaxing holiday after this really busy half term.

V.M. Hunt

Attachments: Baptist Church flyer, Sportspace half term activities, Tring Museum flyer

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK BOOKBAGS

Title	Class	Via
Book Club	Y5 & Y6	Letter
Level 2 Cycle Training	Y5 & Y6	Letter/Schoolcomms
Paternity Leave	Y5	Letter

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