



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 22nd September 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

George D has completed Grade 1 in swimming.
Emily B was gymnast of the week.
Poppy competed in the Hertfordshire Gymnastics competition and won first place for floor and vault and second place on bars.
Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Elizabeth, Finn, Emily, Oliver
Year 1: Devon, Lily, Freddie, Daniel
Year 2: Marley, Henry H, Amelie, Mikel
Year 3: Charlie, Lucas D, Sadie, Clara
Year 4: Rose, Joshua, Benjamin, Charlie
Year 5: Jack, Charlie,
Year 6: Bobby, Keira, Phoebe, Oliver.
Well done to all these children.

Foundation Stage garden

Our Foundation Stage garden has received a bit of attention recently. The sand pit is now full to the brim and stones have been added next to it, providing the area with the beach effect we were looking for. Also, more slate has been spread under the willows. Our grateful thanks go to Ian and Elena Draper and Carl Stead for working so hard on a Sunday to achieve this for our lucky children. Mrs Bottali & Mrs Bates.

Ian Whybrow Visit

Last Friday the whole school had a treat. We had a visit from the highly acclaimed and bestselling author Ian Whybrow. Ian was a very special guest and spent time talking to all the children across the whole school, sharing stories of how he has written some of his most well-known stories and the inspiration behind some of his characters, including Sniff the dog and the famous Harry! Half way through the day he also cut the ribbon for our new St Mary's Story Shack, declaring it officially open. The sun shone and Ian stood in admiration of our beautiful new story shack. When he left he told us that the entire day had been a pleasure for him and noted the warm welcome he got from all the staff without exception. He thought that the story shack would encourage the children to take reading seriously as well as have fun with it.

Very many thanks to Ms Forsyth for organising Ian Whybrow's visit to the school and for overseeing the completion of the story shack. Her hard work and the time she has spent on this project is much appreciated.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will be on 18th and 19th October. The booking system will open on Saturday 30th September at 4.00pm.

Head Lice

There have been reported cases of head lice in the school this week. Please check and treat as appropriate. [Click here for advice.](#)

MacMillan Coffee Morning

There will be a MacMillan Coffee Morning on 29th September in the school hall from 8.45-10.30am. Please come and support this worthy cause.

St. Mary's School Association

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 7th October - Photos By Carrie

Monday, 9th October - Bag2School Drop Off

Wednesday, 11th October - Film Club

AGM

A reminder that the AGM is taking place on Tuesday 17th October. Existing and new parents are invited to consider joining the team to raise important funds for our school. The School Association consists of a very enthusiastic and hardworking group of parents, constantly striving to come up with new as well as maintain popular fundraising ideas. Successful fundraising events have enabled the school to replace/update equipment around the school, Fund the choir attending the O2 Young Voices concert, purchase I-pads, playground equipment, pay for our author visit and complete work on the Story Shack. The existing Committee and Miss Hunt look forward to seeing you at this meeting. Remember that all parents are automatically members of the School Association.

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.

Music Lessons

St Mary's can offer music lessons run by Herts Music Service for guitar, piano and violin. Unfortunately there are currently no spaces for guitar and piano however if you would like to be added to the waiting list please contact the office. There are spaces for violin lessons. If you are interested, please see the office.

School Governors Required

The school urgently requires a number of school governors, both parent and foundation. This is a rewarding and worthwhile role contributing to the school environment and education of the children. If you are able to assist, please contact the School Office/Chair of Governors. Any questions can be answered by existing governors.

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

Pre-school bulletin

This week the children have been experimenting with different paint techniques, and using stencils at the drawing table.

We have been looking at how the children hold their paintbrushes and pencils, and if they are developing a good tripod grip.

Our 'Countries of the World' display this half term is Italy, and the children have been practising saying the numbers "uno due tre", as well as a very enthusiastic "ciao"!

Next week we shall be introducing some maths activities using a basket full of pine cones.

For information about a place at Pre-school please see Lisa Burkett at the end of a school day, or email stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

After School Club

We are still looking for children to join us on Mondays and Fridays so if you need to go and have a quick shop or time to yourselves preparing for the weekend, please let me know.

Our activities these past 2 weeks have included cooking, gymnastics fantastic, new Lego, Bead making and a visit to Berkhamsted library. We do have a car and think this may be a good visit on the wet days, especially on Mondays.

We have enjoyed the outside areas and the physical games.

Carolyn, Paris and Gerry are preparing the planning for the rest of the term and it is always available in the ASC diary.

If you have any children's dressing up clothes or bags we would love to use them at the club.

Holiday Club will be running from Pooh Corner at the Football Club if anyone is interested for £35.00 for a full day. Let me know as it's amazing how half term creeps up on us.

I would like to say a huge thank you for the support you give us and any feedback is always welcome.

Regards, Cathy, Carolyn, Gerry, Paris and Claire.

Diary Dates

29th September – Y2 trip to St Albans Abbey

5th October - Harvest Festival church service 9.30am

7th October - SA Photos by Carrie

9th October – Bags2School drop off

10th October – Open class rooms 3.20pm (Nursery from 9am)

11th October – Film Club

17th October - School Association AGM 7.00pm

18/19th October – Parent Consultations

23-27th October – Half Term

Attachments

Bottle Buddi

AFL Learning Toolkit Letter 2017-18

Ashridge Golf Club

DMS Newsletter & flyers

Basketball flyer & discount vouchers

The 2017 Harvest Appeal Full of Beans

Mighty Netball flyer

E-safety Newsletter

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
KS2 Homework Club Open Invitation	Y 3-6	Newsletter Attachment
Year 3 Berkhamsted castle visit	Y2	Paper copy
NHS School Nursing Team Visits	6	Email

Tapestry info 2017	N	Email
Letter to Parents of Prospective Students - Ashlyns School	Y 5-6	Email
Year 2 Visit to St Albans Cathedral	Y2	Email
Tapestry Refresher	R	Email
Reception Online Health Assessment – September 2017	R	Email
Running Club Letter	Y 3-6	Email
Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2017	All Years	Email
Recorder Club	Y 4-6	Email
Y5 Dacorum Sports Festival Sept 2017	Y5	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 6th October.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

V. M. Hunt.