



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 23rd June 2017

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: COURAGE

Learning to learn skill is Independence

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Well done to all of the St Mary's children who took part in the Tring Fun Run this week.

Charlie W has passed level 8 in Trampolining.

Amelie V was awarded a certificate for completing 50m in swimming.

Lucas G was awarded a certificate for Water Safety.

Finally, congratulations to Lucinda L who reached the finals of the BBC Radio 2 500 words competition for her story Professor Sluggo and the Prosthetic Limbs. She was presented with her award at a ceremony at the Tower of London and had the opportunity to meet many famous authors and actors. She said that it was a very exciting day and an amazing experience. Really well done Lucinda. Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers

Reception: Freddie & Hayley

Year 1: Harry & Milo

Year 2: Lucas & Mia

Year 3: Benjamin & Alice

Year 4: Eve & Jake

Year 5: Keira & George

Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Cross Country

Huge congratulations to Lucy C and Olly P, who competed in the County 600m Championship. They each did fantastically well, with Olly coming in 2nd in the boy's race and Lucy coming in 10th in the girl's race. Congratulations to you both!

Nursery Update

This week the children have been instrumental in welcoming the children who will be starting nursery in September. They have been so good, being kind and playing with them. We attended assembly on Thursday and went outside to play on the main playground with the rest of the school. We will try to do this for the rest of the term so the children become used to playtime with the bigger children in readiness for lunchtime play in September. The fire station role-play is still being enjoyed. The children have been looking for numbers in the school grounds (number hunt), learning that two letters together can make one sound (sh) and we all went over to the forest school for a mini east hunt. Mrs Bottali.

Verulamium Museum Visit

On Monday, Year 4 visited the Hypocaust and Verulamium Museum at St Albans. In the Hypocaust the children saw how the Romans would have heated their rooms. They also spent time drawing part of the wonderful mosaic floor. In the museum the children learnt about how the Romans lived and they were also able to handle genuine Roman artefacts and to discover what lots of the objects were used for. It was an exciting and enjoyable day and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Mrs Christie.

Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported the Summer Fayre last weekend. It was a fantastic day and the School Association raised a fantastic £4,187. This is absolutely amazing and we owe a huge vote of thanks to the School Association - especially Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Draper - for their planning, organisation and extremely hard work. Really well done to everyone involved.

Fiver Challenge

After school on Thursday 29th June, Year 5 will be holding their final Fiver Challenge sale event. We had a fantastic day last week, with each group making a healthy profit thanks to the generosity of parents giving them their business. Please help us to make sure that the children are successful once again in their challenge by coming to support the event this time around. Many thanks!

ESafety

It has come to our attention that some children are having unsupervised access to websites and social media. Can we please remind parents that most social media sites are for over 13s and that parental controls should be carefully checked and monitored if your child is using tablets/phones/laptops, etc on their own. Please refer to the Acceptable Use Agreement in the ESafety policy which everyone should be following. Many thanks.

USING SCHOOL GROUNDS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Can we please remind parents to supervise their children before and after school. Children should not be riding scooters or bikes in the playground - this has been brought up as a concern at Parent Forum. Children should also not be playing on the

Pirate Ship or climbing equipment before or after school. There are notices up reminding parents and children of this rule.

Could we also please ask that you do not use the field or Forest School without prior permission from the school. These are to be used during school hours only or by an after school club. If you are watching an after school club on the field please do not let children into the Forest School area to play.

Parents and children should be leaving school premises promptly at the end of school or after the club has finished. Thank you .

Attendance

In order for children to benefit fully from the opportunities and responsibilities presented to them, excellent attendance at school is vital and we are continually striving to achieve an attendance level of over 97%. Parents have a legal duty to make sure that children of compulsory school age attend school on a regular and full-time basis and permitting unauthorised absence from school is an offence. Could we please draw your attention to our Attendance Policy which is available on the school website and clearly sets out our procedures in deciding how to deal with individual absences or lateness. We have been receiving several requests for children to take family holidays and have also been informed by some of your children themselves that they are going on holiday, when no request has been made. Could we remind you that these requests will not generally be authorised, except in very exceptional circumstances. The Attendance Officer monitors individual attendance and parents will be informed if attendance falls below 95%. During the First half of the Summer term we achieved an attendance of 96.4 %. Research tells us that attendance has a direct impact on progress, so we would appreciate your support in achieving a good attendance level during the forthcoming half term in order to ensure your children benefit fully from their education.

Hot weather Preparations

For the hot weather please ensure that your child has the following:

- * A high-factor, 6-hour sun protection cream applied before coming to school. Children can have a bottle of high-factor sun lotion (preferably roller-ball) in school in a clear, named plastic bag.
- * A (named) hat with them in school.
- * A fresh bottle of drinking water every day in school.
- * And finally, a shower-proof coat in school at all times!

Head lice

There have been new reported cases of head lice. Please can we ask that all children are checked over the weekend. The head lice policy is on the website. Children with long hair should keep it tied back at all times including non-uniform days.

Recording Absence

If your child is unexpectedly absent from school, please ensure that you notify the School Office, via email or telephone, by 9am. This is a legal requirement. We appreciate your continued support in this.

Free School Meals

Herts County Council have asked us to share with you some key messages regarding Free School Meals and renewals.

The FSM Team will automatically renew free school meals for children who currently receive a meal at school, so will not need to re-apply. Key messages are as follows:

- Parents/carers do not need to re-apply for a school meal for September 2017
- Any child receiving a free meal as well as 100% music remission will be renewed for both
- Letters will only be sent to families whose children are no longer entitled to receive free meals
- During August, school will receive confirmation of who is entitled to receive a free meal and 100% music remission
- Anyone receiving 50% music remission will still need to re-apply at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals from Wednesday 7 June 2017.

If you have any queries regarding this, please pop into the office.

Dinner Money

You may not be aware that the school has to pay for all school dinners as soon as they have been ordered, as Herts Catering is a separate company to the rest of the school. It is therefore County policy that dinner money has to be paid in advance as schools are not supposed to carry any debt. In order to meet with this expectation, from half term (5th June), **we are not be able to order a child a school dinner for that day unless their account is in credit**. Hopefully this gives ample warning to make payments through the School Gateway online payment system or in cash to the school office. Please do not be offended if you are requested to send in a packed lunch for your children if there is not credit on their account. Obviously if you have any problems with this, please make an appointment to come and see us and we can put something temporary in place. Miss Hunt.

****FINAL CALL** Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers**

Thank you to all of you who have donated the vouchers for this year's Sainsbury's Active Kids incentive.

The closing date is nearly upon us so could we please ask for any final vouchers which may be lying around at home to be brought into the school office as soon as possible.

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.

Paperless School Initiative

You may have noticed that we are sending more letters by email this term. This is to reduce the amount of paper sent home.

We appreciate your support in this.

School Gateway

St Mary's is moving towards being 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. 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

School Meal Price Increase

Following notification from Hertfordshire Catering Ltd of an increase in school meal prices, the cost for a child's school meal will be £2.50, with effect from 1 September 2017.

Brigade Uniform Suppliers

The cut-off date for uniform orders for delivery in time for September is 7th August.

Parent view Survey

Parents can give their views of our school to Ofsted at any time of the school year using an online questionnaire called <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school, and to help us know what is going well and what could be improved.

If you do not have a computer or an email address or if you would like help to use Parent View, please come into school and ask the school office.

Pre-school

This week Pre-school have been enjoying some great music and movement time, we have extended our dinosaur theme from the Father's Day cards and have learnt the 'dinosaur stomp'! We have also completed our termly fire drill with the children, they experience walking in a line to our designated spot in the main lower playground. All the children listened and responded well to our instructions, so a big well done to them all.

This week the caterpillars made their transformation into chrysalis, and have now been moved into the butterfly net in great expectation of their emergence as butterflies!

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

St Mary's Church dates

The All Age family service is on the following date and it would be lovely to see you all there:

Sunday 9th July.

The preparations for the Church fete are well underway too. It is on Sat 1st July 12.30 - 16.00 in the Church, rectory and school grounds; it would be so good to have as many people visit as possible; there will be lots for both adults and children, with games, pets corner, bouncy castle, face painting & glitter tattoos to name a few.

Dacorum Youth Orchestra Summer Concert

Dacorum Youth Orchestra Summer Concert is taking place on Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm at Rudolph Steiner School, WD4 9HG. Entry is by donation only. This is a short concert suitable for children and includes brief introductions to the various pieces played. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Dates

Music Concert (Brass, Piano, Guitars) – 29th June AM

Year 1 Synagogue visit – 27th June

Year 1 Class Assembly – 29th June

Music Concert (Ukulele, Y3 recorders, Choir, violins, Mrs Osmond's recorder group) – 7th July PM

Year 5 Hazard Alley Trip – 10th July

Sports Day – 11th July

Leavers Church Service – 21st July

End of Term – 21st July 1:30pm

I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

V.M. Hunt

Attachments:

Dacorum Music School Open Afternoon flyer
HOLIDAY TENNIS COURSES 2017
Give it a Go Canoe

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Y3 Maypole Dancing Letter	Year 3	Email
Year 6 Curriculum Letters	Year 6	Email
Y1 Synagogue Trip	Year 1	Email
Foundation Stage –Year 5 Curriculum Letters	FS – Y5	Attachment on Newsletter
Fiver Challenge Letter	Year 5	Email
Year 5 Hazard Alley Trip	Year 5	Email
Foundation Stage College Lake Trip	Year N & R	Email
Relationships and Sex Education letter	Year 6	Email

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