



S^t Mary's C of E Primary School
'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 24th March 2017

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: THANKFULNESS

Learning to learn skill is Curiosity

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Jamie Powell, Olly Painter and David Berry won 3rd place in the Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Championships.

Jessica Fish and Amelia Van Deventer have made their Rainbows Promise.

Congratulations to you all.

Easter Story Trail

On Thursday the children in Years 2,3,5 and 6 visited Northchurch Baptist Church to take part in their Easter Story Trail. Through listening to characters retelling their part in the story, they travelled back in time 2000 years to Jerusalem to hear all about what happened at the very first Easter. It was a very interesting and thought provoking experience and we would like to thank all the members of Northchurch Baptist Church who organised this and made the school so welcome.

Year 1 Woburn Trip

Year 1 had a good day out at Woburn Safari Park. Despite the rain, hail and freezing temperatures we saw a lot of animals! Favourites included the tiger cubs, the playful penguins and the elephant which we could stroke. Miss Gore.

Create a Flower Competition

Once again, well done to all who took part in 'Create a Flower' competition. Here are our winners:

Year 1- Luca and Lexie

Year 2- Layla and Sadie, Scarlett and Chloe

Year 3- Emily P and Elodee, Henry

Year 4- Abigail and Karmel-Mai, Holly and Abbie

Year 5- Max and Anna, Bella and George

Year 6- Aimee and Abbie, Madeleine

Overall Key Stage 1 winner- Luca

Overall Key Stage 2 winners- Anna and Max.

These two entries have been entered amongst many other schools in Herts and we will find out the results in the coming months. We wish them the best of luck! Mrs Zimet.

Year 4 Residential Visit

The Year 4 children have had an amazing time at Woodrow this week, taking part in teambuilding activities which included raft building and racing, pioneering, hide and seek in the woods and nightline. They have also enjoyed archery, a campfire and a scavenger hunt. The food has been fantastic and they are really looking forward to sharing all of their adventures during their class assembly on 27th April. Our thanks go to Mrs. Christie, Mrs. Archbold, Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Johnson for giving up their time this week to take the children and without whose kindness this trip would not have been possible.

Mother's Day Service

The church was full to bursting at this morning's Mother's Day service in church. The pictures, poems and prayers the children shared were delightful. Thank you to Jonathan for conducting it and to Mrs. Archbold for organising it. A huge thank you also goes to the School Association for preparing the flowers for the service and for the vast amount of time they give to the school. We all really appreciate this.

Author visit

On Tuesday afternoon St Mary's was visited by local author Gracie Wright. Gracie read two of her stories to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and answered their questions all about being an author. The children then had the opportunity to purchase a book, some of which we still have for sale in the Office. Thank you.

Nursery Update

This week we have been learning more about the Easter Story and other Bible stories as the children are very interested. The letter sound this week was G and we have been learning how to use positional language.

So far the cress seeds have grown and we are still waiting for the beans, potatoes and carrots to make an appearance. Mrs Bottali.

School Council News

School Council have decided that they would like to re-paint the Friendship Bench. We are struggling to find some wood paint. If you have any spare, please could you hand it in to the school office. Many Thanks. School Council & Mrs Bates.

Young Enterprise

On Wednesday, Year 5 were lucky enough to be joined by Marilla Elliot from the company Young Enterprise, who led a fun and educational day of activities geared towards teaching the children about trade and industry. Young Enterprise will be returning in the Summer term with the Fiver Challenge, to which Wednesday served as a valuable introduction. More details will follow soon. Mr Potter

World Autism Awareness Week

Monday 27th March marks the beginning of World Autism Awareness Week 2017. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability, which affects how people communicate and interact with others. The National Autistic Society explains that at least 1 in 100 people have Autism. At St. Mary's, during World Autism Awareness Week, each class will be taking part in different activities that we hope will encourage an understanding of autism and empathy with those people with the condition.

Parent Consultations – Monday 27th March 3.40 – 6.00pm and Wednesday 29th March 4.40 – 8.00pm

The system is open for bookings and spaces are still available. Please refer to the attachment for more details.

Please note that the times for the sessions have changed slightly.

Please also note that if you have more than one child at the school, you may need to log in separately for each child. We have identified the cause of this issue and it will be corrected for the next parent consultations. We apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause.

Please note that Year 6 children should attend the parent consultation with parents in preparation for transition to secondary school.

School Association Easter Word Search

Help raise funds for the benefit of the children by buying an Easter themed word search from the school office for £2.00. Bring your word search back into school on the last day of term (Fri. 31st Mar. at 1.30pm, or 11.45am for Nursery) and you will receive a chocolate Easter egg.

Pooch Corner After School Club

This week we have been focusing on Mother's Day, following on from the table printing last week the children have been making cards for Mother's Day as well as creating their own vases for flowers to take home to give to someone very special. Some of the children have also written and acted out a play as well as a song, so looking forward to the performance next week at the After School Club. Hopefully as the weather improves we will be able to start outside activities.

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

This is a reminder that we are collecting the Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers again this year, so if you or your family or friends shop at Sainsburys, please bring in your vouchers to school. Thank you.

Crisp Free Packed Lunch Thursdays

To promote healthy eating we would like to remind parents that every Thursday should be crisp free packed lunches.

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.

Fundraising for St Mary's Children's Hospital

As many of you will know, Mr Potter welcomed his twin boys Leo and Zac into the world in October last year. Unfortunately both boys were very ill over Christmas, but thanks to the treatment they received from the wonderful staff at St Mary's Children's Hospital, Paddington, they made a full recovery and are now doing very well.

St Mary's Hospital is currently fundraising to increase the size of their children's intensive care unit so that more critically ill children can receive the urgent treatment they need in the future.

Therefore, in May, Mr Potter is running a charity 10k race to raise money for this fantastic cause, and would hugely appreciate any contributions from the school community. You can donate on his fundraising page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tomjamespotter>

Thank you for your generosity! Mr Potter

Head lice

There has been a reported case of head lice in year 5. 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.

No Dogs on School Grounds

Following the parent forum on 10th March, when a question was raised about dogs being walked through the school grounds on their way to another local school, new signs will be displayed at the main entrance to the school and on the gate by the Shaftesbury entrance. These are to remind everyone that dogs are not permitted on school premises during the school day.

Goodbye to Mrs. Hopkins

Next week we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs. Hopkins who has been a teaching assistant in Year 4 and worked at the school for 22 years. Mrs. Hopkins is retiring and looking forward to spending time with her family and new grandchild. If anyone would like to make a donation to her leaving gift, could you please hand these in to the office.

Dates

Parent Consultations – 27th and 29th Mar.
 School Association “Teacher for a day” – Tues. 28th Mar.
 Church Easter Service – Thurs. 30th Mar. 9.30am
 Wear a Hat for Brain Tumour Research – Fri. 31st Mar.
 Term finishes – Fri. 31st Mar. 1.30pm
 Inset Day – Tuesday 18th Apr
 Summer term begins – 19th Apr

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

V.M. Hunt

Attachments:

**Parent’s Evening Booking Guidance,
 Parent Forum minutes,
 Messy Church flyer,
 ASD ADHD Parent Support Group May & June 2017,
 Ross & Andy's Y1-2 Football,
 Ross & Andy's Y3-6 Girls Football,
 Ross & Andy's Mini Pee Wees Football.**

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Perform drama workshop	All year groups	Letter
Health screening letter	Year 6	Letter

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