



# St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: *JUSTICE*

Learning to learn skill is *Determination*

Dear Parents,

### Breakfast Club

Star of the week is Zara Hunt for being kind and helping the Nursery children with their breakfast.



### Special Achievement Awards

Y6 – Scarlett Mcphee, Alex Speed

Y5 – Olly Painter, Michael Powell

Y4 – Finlay Black, Luke Paylor

Y2 – Olly Cooley, Edward Watson

YR – Amelie Van Deventer, Harry Evans

Very well done.

### Out of School Achievements

Jessica Morris – Gymnastic Certificate

Karmel-Mai Joy – Gymnast of the Week Certificate

Well done both of you.

### New Admissions

The link to dates for prospective parent tours for children entering Reception and Nursery in September 2016 can be found on the front page of the website. To book a place please email the school office [admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk)

Could we remind any parents who will be applying for Reception places for September 2016 under the sibling rule to complete our Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school. These forms can be downloaded from the school website. If it is not clear that your application is for a sibling, you run the risk of not getting the offer of a place.

### Lost Property

Despite being only five weeks into the new year, the lost property box is almost full. Could you please look in this if your child has mislaid something and also ensure that all belongings are named. This will make it far easier for us to match children up with missing items of clothing. Anything unclaimed by half term will be added to the second hand clothing store or disposed of at a charity shop.

### Y3 trip to Berkhamsted Castle

Year 3 visited Berkhamsted on Thursday on a beautiful sunny day. The children separated into three groups and had guided tours of the Motte and Bailey castle by local historians. They found out when and why the castle was built and were given a good idea of what it used to look like. The children's favourite part of the trip was pretending to be enemies, Normans and Anglo-Saxons and then shouting at each other from the top of the Motte and beyond the moat. They then walked down Castle Street and Berkhamsted High Street looking at the historical buildings.

### Secondary Schools 2016

Applications for secondary school places opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September for all Y6 children.

The Y6 children have taken home a 'Moving on 2016' leaflet to support parents with their applications. To apply online visit [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions) The closing date for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> October and all paper applications should be sent direct to the Admissions and Transport Team.

### MacMillan Coffee Morning

The MacMillan Coffee Morning raised £418.08. Thank you to everyone who helped organise this event and to everyone who attended.

### Parentview

Have you completed the Ofsted Parent View Questionnaire? Please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> It only consists of twelve questions to be completed before the end of term. Thank you.

**St. Mary's School Harvest Service**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. All welcome.

**St. Mary's Church Harvest Service**

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.00 a.m., there will be a Harvest Celebration at St Mary's Church. The crèche meets in church and activities for children are held in the Parish Room. We are collecting for DENS and tins of food are welcome.

**Y2 trip to St. Albans Cathedral**

On Tuesday, Year 2 visited St. Albans Cathedral as part of their R.E. topic on 'Signs and Symbols'. They were guided around the Cathedral looking for Christian symbols. The children were able to show their learning by discussing what some of the symbols, such as the cross, candle and water represent. Some children had the opportunity to dress up to tell the story of Alban, and others got to dress as a Bishop. The guides from the Education Centre commented on how well behaved and engaged the children were. Well done Year 2.

**Y6 trip to Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans Fire Stations**

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the fire stations. They carried out team building exercises and were given a good insight into how a fire station worked. They even sat on the beds of the fireman who were on duty for twenty-four hours. They also felt the anticipation that the firemen could be called to an incident at any time. All their questions were answered.

**For information**

Many thanks to Mr. Draper (George and Harry's Dad) for once again coming to the rescue and sorting out our plumbing problems. We greatly appreciate it.

We have been informed that a defibrillator has now been installed at Tesco Stores, Northchurch.

**Attachments**

The First Dacorum DSPL Conference. Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
Dacorum Music School Recorder Day  
Dacorum Music School Activity Flyer

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

**V.M. Hunt**

**Safeguarding**

For the purposes of security, from now on, the gate to the top of the playground will be padlocked at 8.15 a.m. every morning and opened again at 8.45 a.m. in time for children to line up to be taken in for registration. Any children arriving after 8.15 a.m. for Breakfast Club should be taken to the front entrance of the school. The gate will also be locked in the afternoon at the end of the school day. Any children remaining for after school clubs will be dismissed by the teacher in charge, who will unlock the gate to enable them to leave the premises.

**Foundation Stage Gate**

When parents arrive in the morning and the Foundation Stage gate has been closed by a member of staff, can parents please not open the gate. Sometimes the gate is left unlocked. They must go to the front of the school through the main entrance. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Foundation Stage Update**

Nursery have been on an Autumn walk this week and collected leaves, cut grass and feathers which some children used to make crowns. They have also been acting out the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' with the use of a few props and a lot of imagination.

Reception children have been developing their independence by coming into class by themselves and making their lunch choices. They have also been learning about the characters in the Oxford Reading Tree reading books.

**World Food Week - 12th to 16th October**

Hertfordshire Catering are celebrating this by working with Unilever to support the United Nations' Food Programme which helps to provide school meals to children around the world. Please look out for the exciting menu which has an international feel to the vegetarian options available, which could introduce children to some foods they may not have tried before. Unilever will be donating the cost of providing a school meal to the World Food Programme for every special World Food Week meal children choose during the week. We hope you will support their commitment to this valuable campaign to help children have the nourishment they deserve around the globe.

**Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks**

PLEASE CHECK BOOKBAGS

<b>Title</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Via</b>
Trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor	Y4	Letter
School Association Photo Day	All years	Letter
Flu Immunisation Consent Form	Years 1 and 2	Pack from NHS Trust
School Gateway	All years	Schoolcomms

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