



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

Update Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 and Olly both ran well at the National Primary Schools Cross Country at Prestwold Hall, Loughborough on Saturday. In a field of nearly 300 athletes Olly came 48th with Jamie finishing 13 seconds behind in 75th. Hertfordshire finished fourth team overall behind Kent, West Yorkshire and Gloucestershire.

Amara Watsham played Alice in a Crazy performance of Alice in Wonderland.

Ross and Andy's Player of the term Daniel Wilkinson and Madeleine Jeavons.

Ross and Andy's Fair Play award Amy Mullins and Mia Harvey.

Congratulations to you all.

**Running Club Achievements**

Lucy Cooley – 78.6 miles – triple marathon

Billy Read – 62 miles –

Matthew Horton – 62 miles

Isabella Walker – 52 miles – double marathon

Jack Collingwood – 52 miles – double marathon

Phoebe Goss – 52 miles – double marathon

James Sales – 52 miles – double marathon

Maddie Bell – 10miles

**School Ambassadors**

On Thursday the School Ambassadors went to visit Cunningham Hill Junior School in St Albans. When we got there we had a tour of the school and played in their playground which had some great equipment. We then made clay tiles with our names and handprints on before we had lunch in the courtyard. After lunch we walked to the local park and woodlands and built animal dens and played some team games. It was great to see our new friends again and we all had a great day.

Ms Gore

**Easter Service**

Thank you to everyone who attended the end of term Easter Service and to Jonathan for leading it and to Mrs. Archbold for organising it. Each class gave their own presentations of a song, prayers, Bible readings and poems. It was a lovely way to end the Spring Term.

**Walk around the local area.**

On Tuesday 28th March Reception went on a walk around the local area. We were really lucky with the weather and were able to spot several signs of Spring such as tree blossom and daffodils. The children spotted many different types of houses and all were able to use excellent vocabulary. We went across the trip trappy bridge and past the parade of shops. The children were all beautifully behaved as always and crossed the roads safely at all times.

A massive thanks to all the parent helpers without whose help this walk would not have been possible.

Mrs Bates

**Teacher for a day**

Following The Gatsby Auction, the children were pleased to welcome new teachers to their classes on Tuesday. In Nursery Miss Lams, in Reception Mr. Draper, in Year 1 Miss Stead, in Year 2 the Misses Geronimo, in Year 3 Mr. Draper, in Year 4 Miss Bennett, in Year 5 Mr. Hunt and in Year 6 Miss Bell took charge for the day. They all took their responsibilities very seriously and enjoyed doing the register and generally taking charge of their classes. Thank you to everyone for supporting the School Association in their tremendous fundraising work.

**Nursery update**

The old sand-pit in the foundation stage garden has not been in use for some time now and we would like to change this.

We would like to use it as a quiet space filled with cushions or a role-play area i.e. an ice-cream shop or cafe

What we need is for the existing structure to be opened up so that children can gain easy access whilst still maintaining it's safety.

If you could help us achieve this or advise on how this could be done, please contact Mrs Bottali.

**Pre-school bulletin**

This week we have been decorating our Easter boxes to take our chocolate eggs home in. We have also been caring for our plants that we potted last week and waiting for any signs of growth. Both of these activities form part of our understanding of the world development.

Sadly we have said goodbye to Mrs Dormer this week as she leaves Pre-school after four years. We would like to say a very big thank you for all her hard work and dedication to the Pre-school and all the children over these years. Finally, we would like to wish you all a very happy Easter break.  
The Pre-school team

#### **Comic Relief**

We sold 160 red noses for Comic Relief and raised a further £142.65 from the non-uniform day. Thank you all for your generosity.

#### **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 have been more reported cases of head lice in year 5. Please can we ask that all children are checked over the Easter break. The [head lice policy](#) is on the website. Children with long hair should keep it tied back at all times.

#### **Staffing News**

This week, during our final assembly of term, we said goodbye to Mrs. Hopkins. She has worked at the school for 22 years and we shall really miss her but wish her a long and happy retirement. We also owe Mrs. Hopkins a huge thank you as she has just finished repainting the Bible story pictures in the top playground and this is a lovely memento for her to leave us. Please take some time to enjoy them. Year 4 will be joined by Miss Padmore who will be working as their class Teaching Assistant and also as an additional MSA after Easter.

Another sad farewell will take place at the end of the summer term when we say goodbye to Miss Waterhouse who will be leaving us after five years, to take up a post at a school in Hemel Hempstead. We wish her well at her new school. We will be joined by another experienced teacher, Miss Groves, who has been appointed as a class teacher starting in September.

Finally, news of a forthcoming happy event. Miss King is delighted to announce that she is expecting her first baby which is due in August. Miss King will be leaving us during the summer term to take her maternity leave. We offer her our warmest congratulations.

#### **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.

#### **Health for Kids Website**

The new Hertfordshire Health for Kids website has launched. This is aimed at children aged 4 to 11 and can be accessed via [www.healthforkids.co.uk/Hertfordshire](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/Hertfordshire). It currently contains local information on: The success of the nasal flu vaccination

National Child Measurement Programme  
 Hand hygiene to prevent illness  
 Your school nursing team  
 Please access the website for information about local services and agencies.

**Exam Invigilators - £8 per hour**

Ashlyns School is increasing its Exam Invigilation team in preparation for the summer exam period. The role involves invigilating exams, collecting and collating papers and working with the Exams Officer to ensure regulations are adhered to. The hours are varied over the exam season (May and June) and there may be further opportunities to work on an ad hoc basis during the year. Appropriate training will be provided.

**Please contact Jane Gaherty, PA to the Headteacher, for further details (01442 863605) or see application details at [www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/news/vacancies](http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/news/vacancies)**

**Parent Consultations**

Thank you to everyone who attended one of these consultation evenings. They are a crucial part of finding out about your children's learning, how you can support it and also of course to celebrate what your children are doing well in at school. Thank you also to the very many lovely comments made on the feedback sheets. The staff really appreciate them. We will of course be working on the few areas in which you feel we could be improved and addressing these as the term progresses. Thank you for all of your feedback, as it is very helpful in moving St. Mary's forward on our journey towards becoming an Outstanding school.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter Holiday. I hope we have plenty of sunshine in which to relax and I look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Wednesday 19th April for a fun filled drama day at the start of our whole school 'Into the Wild' theme.

V.M.Hunt

**Dates**

Inset Day – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Apr  
 Summer term begins – 19<sup>th</sup> Apr

**Attachments:**

- NHM Easter activities**
- Jacqinthebox Yoga,**
- Easter Workshop,**
- Junior Easter Golf Lessons,**
- Messy Church flyer,**
- ASD ADHD Parent Support Group May & June 2017,**
- Ross & Andy's 3v3 Course 2017,**
- Ross & Andy's Y1-2 Football,**
- Ross & Andy's Y3-6 Girls Football,**
- Ross & Andy's Girls Summer Course 2017,**

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

PLEASE CHECK BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Kingswood Medical and kit list	Year 6	Letter
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