



# S<sup>t</sup> Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017  
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt  
Core Christian Value for this half term: Peace  
Learning to learn skill is Curiosity

Dear Parents,

### Out of School Achievements

Hayley J has passed Stage 1 swimming level.  
Poppy B was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Hertfordshire County Level 6 Gymnastics Team championships.  
Congratulations to you both.

### Celebrations Assembly

In our last Celebrations Assembly before half term, we awarded children for demonstrating great effort in their handwriting throughout the half term. The certificates went to:

Nursery: Eleanor and Buddy

Year 1: Freddie

Year 2: Oscar

Year 3: Joseph

Year 4: Emily P

Year 5: Poppy

Year 6: Carson

Well done to all of the children for showing brilliant Growth Mindset and perseverance.

### Staffing News

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye today to Miss Harvey in the school office.

Mrs Fleming is joining us and we are sure that you will make her feel very welcome.

### Cross country

A huge well done to all of the children who have represented the school in cross country events recently.

In the Ashlyn's race, our Year 3 girls' team of Millie, Isabelle, Olivia, Chloe, Lorelie, Sofia, Gemma, Mia, Scarlett, Martha and May came 2nd overall, and our Year 5 boys' team of Callum, Joe, Jack, Charlie Dormer and Harry came 3rd overall.

In the District cross country at Adeyfield School, Phoebe led the girls' team home in 24th, followed by Bella 27th, Molly 28th and Charlotte 53rd from a field of 75+ girls. The boys' team of James, Billy, Finlay and Callum ran a fantastic team race with all four in the top 21 finishers (from 80+ finishers). Callum brought the team home in 2nd, James 10th, Billy 14th and Finlay 21st. We await to find out the overall team positions and will let you know when we have them.

Very well done everyone! Mr Potter

### Be Bright, Be Seen

This week the children have had an assembly on 'Be Bright, Be Seen' which focused on the importance of wearing bright or fluorescent colours at night or when visibility is poor. Flyers explaining the messages given to the children are attached to this newsletter. Please take the time to read them and consider equipping your children with highly visible or reflective clothing now that the nights are drawing in.

### Reminder of Remembrance Day Service

In Church on Friday 10th November at 9.30am. Everyone welcome.

### Children in Need

School Council and Year 5 & 6 girls would like to support the Children In Need Big Spectacular this year. The children will be baking cakes to sell after school and we hope you can help us to raise valuable funds for this worthwhile charity.

### Maths Evening - save the date.

We will be holding a maths evening for parents on Thursday 7th December, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. The evening will be an opportunity for parents to watch their children's teachers demonstrating the methods taught at school, in order to help them to support their children with maths at home. This will be for adults only. Further details will follow shortly.

Thanks, Mr Potter

### Parking

When dropping and collecting children please do not park on the double yellow lines up to New Road bridge as it makes it very difficult for two lanes of traffic to pass up and down the road safely. Please do not park at the George & Dragon pub.

### Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

### Packed Lunches

Thursday is a crisp free day and definitely no sweets should be in lunchboxes on any day.

### Coats

Please ensure children bring in coats to school with their names clearly marked. There are still children without them.

### **Parent Governor Election Forms**

A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor on the governing body. Please refer to the letter and attachments sent out this morning.

### **Volunteers Needed for Reading**

We still need a few more volunteers to hear children read throughout the school. If you have an hour or so to spare during the week we would love to hear from you. This is subject to the usual DBS checks. Volunteer induction and guidance will be provided. Please contact the office if you are interested. May we please remind you that unless it is to accompany your child's class on a school trip, then volunteering in school would be in a class other than that of your child(ren). Many thanks.

### **Voluntary contributions**

St. Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their funding costs from central government via the local authority. In contrast to other types of maintained schools, only 90% of the capital costs of a VA school are met by the state. The foundation (in our case the Governing Body), has to contribute the remaining 10% of the capital costs. Parents are often invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools. We would like to invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per family, each term, towards the school capital maintenance fund. The maintenance contribution will be used for the upkeep of the school premises. We will report to parents at the end of the year on how the money donated has been spent. If you would like to make your first voluntary contribution starting this term please could you send this in to the office by cash/cheque made payable to St Mary's School Governors or via BACS to Nat West Bank; Sort Code: 60-02-21; Account No.: 51856859. Payments can be made each term or one payment for the year. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Snow Closure System – please register now**

Parents must register with [Hertfordshire's School Closure Notification System](#). Once registered, the system will advise of any school emergency closure. For further details please refer to the attached letter.

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal**

Many thanks to the families who have brought in their shoeboxes already. It is lovely to see the children bringing them in with pride, knowing that they are going to make someone happy this Christmas.

It's not too late to pack a shoebox! The deadline for bringing them back to school is **Friday 10th November**. We have a number of spare, empty shoeboxes in school. If you would like one please

ask at the office. Details of how to pack the box are attached. Please make sure you stick the label showing who the gift is for (boy/girl) on the top of the box. Many thanks, Mrs Archbold.

### **School Crossing Patrol and Swimming Lessons - Thank you to the Parish Council**

In the light of recent tragic circumstances, it is with huge relief that we are able to inform you that we are able to retain our School Crossing Patrol. The Parish Council has agreed to fund Mrs. Delderfield for the remainder of the academic year. The Parish Council is also continuing to support the school by contributing to the funding of the swimming lessons for Years 3 and 4. We would like to express how truly grateful the school is for the added measures of protection and support the Parish Council provides to St. Mary's. This is very much appreciated.

### **Road Safety - Thank you for helping to keep our children safe**

We would like to remind parents to set a good example to the children and reinforce the road safety message at home. Please remember to use the pedestrian crossing on the High Street or the School Crossing Patrol on New Road. Please refer to the two attachments : 'Be bright and be seen' and 'Think ! Department of Transport'. Thank you.

### **New School Stage**

A huge thank you to the School Association for funding the new school stage which was delivered this week. The younger children will be taking advantage of this when they perform their Nativities at the end of term.

### **OFSTED**

Thank you to everyone for the many lovely messages we have received following the publication of our OFSTED letter. Everyone is delighted with the outcome of the Inspection and we are so proud to be part of such a special school family which has high expectations, but is also a warm and caring community.

### **St. Mary's School Association**

The School Association have been lucky again this year to have been allocated a slot to man the Lion's Santa Sleigh.

For those that don't know, the sleigh goes around the town each evening in the run up to Christmas raising money for local charities.

By helping on an evening we will be raising money for St. Mary's Primary School. The team that went out last year raised over **£500** for our School whilst having a lot of fun!

This year we need a team of 7 volunteers for the following date:

**Northchurch on Saturday 2nd December - 4pm-8pm**

If you are interested in helping out please email Donna Walker at the following address: - [donna\\_j\\_morrison@hotmail.com](mailto:donna_j_morrison@hotmail.com) or contact any other member 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.

#### 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](mailto:breakfast.club@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk)

#### Pre-school Bulletin

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed welcoming the children back after half term, and hearing all about their half term activities. The children have loved painting their clay diva lamps

that have dried over half term. We have used metallic paints to give a very sparkly effect. We have also made some superb firework pictures using neon coloured paint onto black paper using our special stampers. We shall continue the theme of fireworks into next week as the children start to talk about their firework night experiences.

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](mailto:stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com)

#### Diary Dates

10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Service 9:30am

10<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Forum Meeting 2.00pm

13<sup>th</sup> November – Prospective Parents Reception Tour 11:00am

24<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4 Treat Friday

27<sup>th</sup> November – Occasional Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

29<sup>th</sup> November - Prospective Parents Reception Tour 11:00am

1<sup>st</sup> December – Rock Steady Assembly

1<sup>st</sup> December – Non-uniform day

4<sup>th</sup> December – Open Classrooms

6<sup>th</sup> December – Nasal Flu Vaccinations (R-Y4)

7<sup>th</sup> December – Maths evening

9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fayre

12<sup>th</sup> December – FS Play 9:30am

13<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Play 5:30pm

13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

14<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Play 9:30am

14<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Carol Service 6:30pm

15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Secret Room

19<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term 1:30pm

#### Attachments

Gingerbread Event

Be bright and be seen

Think ! Department of Transport

How to pack a shoebox

Shoebox Guide For Parents

Ashlyns Craft Fair & Creative Classroom

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

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

| Title   | Class | Via                  |
|---|-------|----------------------|
| Curriculum Letters  | All   | Email via newsletter |
| Hertfordshire's School Closure Notification System Letter | All   | Email via newsletter |
| Christmas Lunch Letter                                    | All   | Email via newsletter |
| Parent Governor Election                                  | All   | Email                |

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

Next newsletter on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

I hope you all have a safe and happy weekend.

V. M. Hunt.