



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

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday, 4th September 2015

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: *JUSTICE*

Learning to learn skill is *Determination*

Dear Parents

Welcome back to St. Mary's for the Autumn term. It is lovely to see everyone back in school and a special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time. We hope that you all had a very enjoyable Summer and managed to find some time to relax. We now have our first ever Year 6 class and we are very proud to have such a responsible and sensible group of children. They have all got a very exciting and busy year ahead of them and are enjoying settling into their lovely new classroom as it now comes into official use as the 'Year 6 Classroom'.

The Nursery and Reception children are gradually joining us over the next few days and the children who have been here for the first two days of term are settling in really well. By Monday all the new children will have started in Nursery and by next Wednesday we will have welcomed all the new children to Reception. The whole Foundation Stage Team say that the children have made a brilliant start at St. Mary's and are very much looking forward to the coming year.

Miss V.M. Hunt

Midday Lunchtime Assistants

We are in urgent need of temporary lunchtime supervisors to help the children during the lunchtime break and to supervise in the playground. This is a paid position and if anyone is interested please see Mrs. Young in the school office.

School Crossing Patrol

We no longer have our School Crossing Patrol and we are urgently seeking someone to take this paid position. The hours are 8.30 – 9.00 a.m. and 3.05 – 3.40 p.m. term time only. Uniform and training provided by Herts C.C. Please see Mrs. Young in the school office if you would like more information.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Can ALL families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 please register online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals to claim free school meals and universal free school meals. If all families register, the school will not miss out on additional funding entitlement. The deadline is the 1st October. Thank you.

Playground Equipment

For health and safety reasons please note that children are not allowed on the playground equipment before and after school. Thank you.

Herts Music Service

From Monday, 14th September Herts Music Service will be teaching music to KS2 children during the afternoon session. They will also be re-launching the St. Mary's choir. Further details to follow.

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Ms. Fitzgerald for her hard work and support over the many years she has been at St. Mary's.

Piano Lessons

Herts Music Service will also be providing piano lessons this term. Further details to follow.

Meet the Teacher Evening

**Wednesday, 9th September for Year 1 – Year 6
6.00 – 7.00 p.m.**

Please come along to the above meetings on Wednesday which take place in the classrooms. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child/children's teacher. The session is divided into two twenty minute slots, repeated, to enable parents with more than one child in the school to go to different classes.

Foundation Stage have already had their meetings before the Summer holidays. However, if parents have any questions they need to ask the teachers please speak to the office staff who will arrange a meeting with the Foundation Stage teacher concerned.

Pooh Corner at St. Mary's

The ASC staff are looking forward to hearing about all the outings and exciting things that the children have been doing over the 6 weeks' Summer break. We would like you to meet Carolyn who has been on maternity leave with Peter and is returning to work at the ASC at St Mary's. Carolyn is a fantastically enthusiastic person who loves singing, arts and crafts and drama. She will be at the ASC every day except Fridays, working alongside the other Pooh Corner Staff.

Our first call is Fire Drill every evening and we are planning a visit to the church. We are also planning to celebrate religious festivals this term starting with making bread for Harvest. Some of our clubs will include: Lego, Science, Cooking with Sue, Sports with Ben and a Dance Class. We do hope to enjoy some outside play while the weather lasts, with a visit to the allotments, planting in Mabel's own vegetable garden.

If you would like to visit and meet us in the ASC, please just come into the hall any day. Fruit and juice will be waiting for you. We look forward to plenty of fun packed evenings.

Cathy Sykes.

Y6 Secondary Transition

Application Deadline 31st October. Apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

Parentview link

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Pick-up arrangements after school

Can collection arrangements please be put in writing and given to the class teachers. Thank you.

Food Hygiene Rating

Very many congratulations to Mrs. Pemberton and her team in the school kitchen at St. Mary's for achieving 5 in all areas of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. This is a marvellous achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication involved in preparing the delicious meals which are thoroughly enjoyed by the children and staff at St. Mary's.

Message from The Reverend Jonathan Gordon

The refugee crisis in different parts of Europe not only sheds light on the horrors of warfare in Syria and North Africa, but has raised a debate at which you can feel that the very soul of Europe is under the microscope. I saw a photograph yesterday of a child that had been drowned in the Mediterranean and had been washed ashore. These various images are not only profoundly upsetting but also quite possibly make us think about what really matters in terms of faith and action. With this in mind I would like to offer an invitation to the churches in the area to come along to a Prayer Vigil at St Mary's Northchurch on Saturday October 10th from 9.00am -3.00pm. Please do come along and light a candle and pray together for this critical situation.

I have been reading a book by Timothy Radcliffe a Dominican Friar who says that through small signs that speak about hope it is possible to open windows for God's transforming grace in the world. Faced with the enormity of the problem these are words of hope.

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK BOOKBAGS

Title	Class	Via
Swimming donation	Y3 & Y4	Schoolcomms
September instalment for Woodrow	Year 4	Schoolcomms
September instalment for Kingswood	Year 6	Schoolcomms
Swimming arrangements	Y4	Schoolcomms

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

