



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: Justice

Learning to learn skill is Creativity

Dear Parents,

### Out of School Achievements

Lottie achieved level 10 in Gymnastics.  
Elinor achieved amber level in Gymnastics  
Congratulations to you all.

### School Council Executive Committee

The Year 6 children who will form this Committee have now been selected. They are:-

Chair - Lily

Vice Chair - George

Agenda Secretary - Emilia

Minutes' Secretary - Louis

Congratulations to you all for earning this position of responsibility. Mr. Kemp the Chair of Governors, who was part of the selection process, says that he looks forward to working alongside you.

### DSSN Bronze Sports Ambassadors.

Congratulations to Phoebe, Bella, Amber, Miranda, James and Billy, who have been appointed as this year's DSSN Bronze sports ambassadors. They will lead sports activities within the school and take responsibility for raising the profile of sports amongst the younger children. Well done to you all. Mr Potter

### Nursery Update

We have been learning about Autumn and the changes that take place; the children have been on an Autumn walk and made Autumn crowns. We have been learning about patterns looking at animal patterns and also simple repeating patterns using the compare bears and pegs and boards. We attended the Harvest Festival service in our church with the rest of the school and the children were extremely well behaved.

Open classrooms are scheduled for Tuesday 10th October. As nursery only operates in the morning, parents are welcome to come in to the Nursery classroom with their children from 9.45 onwards and stay until the end of 'Busy fingers' (9.05). This will give you an opportunity to have a look around the classroom and, maybe read a story or indulge in another activity with them. Please note that our resources are aimed at children of three years old and over so younger siblings will need to be closely monitored by their parents.

We look forward to seeing you. Mrs Bottali.

### Year 2 St Albans Cathedral Trip

Last Friday Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral as part of their RE learning about Signs and Symbols. We went on a guided trail around the cathedral, learning about the story of Alban as well as exploring the symbols and what they represent. In the afternoon we looked at the role of stained glass windows and some of the stories they tell, before creating our own stained glass windows inspired by the impressive Rose Window in the Cathedral. Mrs Archbold and Mrs Zimet.

### DSSN Mini-Olympics festival

Year 5 went to the DSSN Mini-Olympics festival on Wednesday 27th September. All the children had fun competing and we came 3rd overall! We also came 2nd in the table tennis and athletics events, and 3rd in the bocchia!

Year 4 also went to the DSSN Mini-Olympics festival. They had a great day and came 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

### Harvest Service in St. Mary's Church

It was lovely to see so many families and friends in our first church service of the new school year. Thank you all so much for joining us. Very well done to the Reception and Nursery children for their impeccable behaviour during their first 'official' St. Mary's School service. As ever our thanks go to Mrs. Archbold for organising the service, to Jonathan for leading it and not least to the staff and children for preparing and presenting such lovely work and prayers. What an amazing start to the day.

### Bishop's Harvest Appeal - Full of Beans

In our Harvest service yesterday the Collective Worship Group announced the winner of the 'Guess how many beans in the jar' competition. Lots of the entries were around the 300-400 mark, but the closest entry of 1003 was sent in by Mia Harvey in Y3. The actual number of jellybeans was 1063! Well done Mia. Don't eat them all at once! Thank you to everyone who entered the competition. We have raised over £50 for the Bishop's project in the Philippines. Mrs Archbold.

### Attendance

Year 1 achieved the highest attendance last week (25-29 September) with 99.29%. Well done Year 1.

**Road Safety Reminder – Please help keep our children safe**

As you know, the path outside the school to the top of New Road at the junction with the High Street is extremely narrow. If it is unavoidable for any reason and you have to walk up this path, could you please take extreme care and ensure that you walk as close to the railings by the school as possible. However, at the beginning and end of the school day the gates through the churchyard and the top playground by Year 6 are unlocked. It is possible to safely access the school, the Pelican crossing in the High Street and also the Lollipop lady by taking this route. This avoids having to walk up New Road along the narrow path at all and is a safe route to take before and after school. It might take slightly longer but if it ensures everyone is safe, it is surely worth it. Please encourage your children to take care if they are walking home unaccompanied by an adult.

**USING SCHOOL GROUNDS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Can we please remind parents to supervise their children before and after school. Children should not be riding scooters or bikes in the playground - this has been brought up as a concern at Parent Forum. Children should also not be playing on the Pirate Ship or climbing equipment before or after school. There are notices up reminding parents and children of this rule.

Could we also please ask that you do not use the field or Forest School without prior permission from the school. These are to be used during school hours only or by an after school club. If you are watching an after school club on the field please do not let children into the Forest School area to play.

Parents and children should be leaving school premises promptly at the end of school or after the club has finished. Thank you.

**Volunteers Needed for Reading**

We urgently need 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.

**Parent Consultations – Weds. 18th and Thurs. 19th Oct**

Can we remind parents to sign up for parent consultations using the new online parents evening system. Please visit:

<https://stmarysberkhamsted.parenteveningsystem.co.uk>

Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received.

**Nasal Flu Vaccinations**

Nasal Flu Vaccinations are being offered to all Reception to Year 4 children. These will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December. If you have not already done so please return the forms to the School Office.

If you do not wish your child to have the Nasal Flu Vaccination, please return the forms indicating your decision by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Secondary School 2018**

Applications for secondary school places opened on 1 September for all our year 6 children.

We have sent home a 'Moving On 2018' leaflet to support you with your application. You will be able to apply on-line by visiting [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions). Please note that the **closing date for applications is 31 October** and all paper applications should be sent direct to the Admissions and Transport Team, not the school office.

We are aware that our Year 6 children could be visiting prospective secondary schools, during their open days. If you wish to take your child on one of these visits, please let the school office know, so that the registers can be marked accordingly.

If your child normally has a school dinner, please ensure that their choice for the day of their visit is recorded with the office, if they will be returning in time for lunch.

**Mud Pack Challenge for the Hospice of St Francis**

Some of the Mums are taking part in The Mud Pack Challenge raising money for The Hospice of St Francis. If you would like to support them please donate [here](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarysums)

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)

**St. Mary's School Association**Dates for your diary

Saturday, 7th October - Photos By Carrie  
Monday, 9th October - Bag2School Drop Off  
Wednesday, 11th October - Film Club

AGM

A reminder that the AGM is taking place on Tuesday 17th October. Existing and new parents are invited to consider joining the team to raise important funds for our school. The School Association consists of a very enthusiastic and hardworking group of parents, constantly striving to come up with new as well as maintain popular fundraising ideas. Successful fundraising events have enabled the school to replace/update equipment around the school, Fund the choir attending the O2 Young Voices concert, purchase I-pads, playground equipment, pay for our author visit and complete work on the Story Shack. The existing Committee and Miss Hunt look forward to seeing you at this meeting. Remember that all parents are automatically members of the School Association.

**Pre-school bulletin**

This week at Pre-school we have been talking about people who help us. We have spoken about doctors and dentists, and police and firemen. We followed on from this to explain to the children where our fire alarm was in our classroom, and what we would do if it went off. We then practiced our fire drill where we take the children in a nice orderly line out to our designated point in the main playground. All the children responded very well to our fire drill and we presented them with little certificates to show they had completed it! This all forms part of their listening and understanding development, whilst also giving them the skills required to be competent in such a situation. For more information about Pre-school please see Lisa Burkett at the end of a school day, or email [stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com)

**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.

**Berkhamsted Fireworks**

Advance tickets are available from the School Office for the Berkhamsted Fireworks evening. The cost of tickets are £7 adults, £5 children and £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and max 2 children). Please see the flyer attached to with the newsletter for more details.

**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.

**Diary Dates**

7<sup>th</sup> October - SA Photos by Carrie  
9<sup>th</sup> October – Bags2School drop off  
10<sup>th</sup> October – Open class rooms 3.20pm (Nursery from 9am)  
11<sup>th</sup> October – Film Club  
12<sup>th</sup> October – E-safety meeting 6.00pm  
17<sup>th</sup> October - School Association AGM 7.00pm  
18/19<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Consultations  
23-27<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term

**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

**Attachments**

Ashlyns Surgery flyer  
Boxmoor Trust Events  
Cheese and wine – 2017  
Diary Dates 2017-18 (3)  
Firework Flyer 2017  
Poetry Competition Flyer  
Proformance October half term flyer  
Recorder Day Form Nov 2017

<b>Title</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Via</b>
Forest School Club letter	Year 2-6	Email
Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Year R-4	Letter
Y5 National Space Centre trip	Year 5	Email
Y4 Bhaktivedanta Visit 2017	Year 4	Email
O2 2018 letter to parents	Choir	Letter
Overstrand First Letter Parents 2018	Year 6	Email and letter
Science of Sound Workshop	Year 4 & 6	Letter

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

Next newsletter on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

V. M. Hunt.