



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 8th September 2017

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: Justice
Learning to learn skill is Creativity

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year and a very warm welcome to the two new children who have joined St. Mary's this week in Year 2, Imogen and Oscar, and to the new Reception and Nursery children and their parents. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. Thank you to all the parents who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday for Years 1 to 6. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you. V. M. Hunt

Welcome to new Staff

This term we are delighted to welcome to the school Miss Groves who joins us as the new Year 3 teacher, Mrs. Coleman who is replacing Miss King whilst she is on maternity leave and Mr Wignall who will be a Learning Support Assistant in Year 6. We know that everyone will make them feel very welcome.

Baby News

We are delighted to report the safe arrival of Arlo Kazer-King who was born on the 22nd August weighing 8lb 4oz. Miss King commenced maternity leave at the beginning of the summer holidays and baby and mother are doing really well.

Newsletters

From now on Newsletters will be sent out once a fortnight. Please take the time to read them. Copies are put on the school website and also sent electronically to all families in the school. Please keep the School Office updated if your email address changes.

Curriculum Letters

Accompanying this newsletter you will find a year group specific Curriculum letter. You will receive one at the start of each half term outlining the curriculum content and important information from the class teacher regarding class arrangements.

Foundation Stage Climbing Area

Over the summer holiday the climbing area outside Nursery and Reception Classrooms was completely resurfaced. This was a much needed and long overdue job. We owe a huge thank you to the Pre-School for funding this work and also to Mr. Burkett, our Site Manager, who, in order to keep costs down, spent a great deal of time preparing the area before the work took place. We hope that the children really enjoy

using the climbing equipment on the lovely new surface.

Annual Reminders

In order to get the new academic year off to a good start, here are a few reminders:

Timing of the School Day

Morning arrival at school 8.45a.m. when KS1 and 2 children are collected from the playground by class teachers. EYFS children may enter directly through EYFS outside area.

Registration 8.55 a.m.

End of school day 3.20 p.m.

Please ensure that your child(ren) arrives punctually in the morning. Children who arrive after 8.55 a.m. should be brought in via the school office and will have their minutes late recorded in the register. Arrivals after 9.30 a.m. without a valid reason (e.g. hospital appointment) will be counted as an absence. If children miss the beginning of a lesson, it will affect the progress they and the rest of their class can make in that lesson.

If for some reason you are unable to collect your child punctually at 3.20 p.m. (e.g. in traffic jam) please contact the school to notify us of the delay before 3.00 p.m. Children will be asked to wait in the school office and parents should come to the front door to collect their children.

Who can you speak to if you have any concerns about your child?

If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or progress, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance and a meeting can be arranged via the School Office. If you wish to speak to the Special Educational Needs teacher, Mrs. Stewart, this can also be done via the class teacher or via the School Office.

After speaking to your child's teacher, if you still have concerns, please make an appointment via the School Office to speak to Miss Hunt.

Snacks

A Government initiative entitles all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day, which they eat during the mid-morning break. Junior children may bring in prepared fruit or vegetables (carrot/celery etc) or a healthy cereal bar. Sweets, chewing gum, biscuits, crisps and nuts are not allowed. Please ensure that for children who bring in a packed lunch from home it does not include products containing nuts. We have some severely allergic children in the school who must not come into contact with nuts in any way.

Treats in School

The school does not condone the distribution of sweets on children's birthdays but if parents still wish to bring treats in, please ensure that they do not contain nuts and are suitable for children with other food allergies and dietary requirements. They are to be given out at the end of session/day either by the child or adult collecting. Please do not give them to class teachers to hand out.

Mile a Day

This is taking place every day in all year groups to encourage the children to keep fit and to give them a brain boost to help their learning.

Breakfast and After School Clubs at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45 to 8.45 a.m. and children can attend from 1-5 days per week. The After School Club runs from 3.20 to 6.00 p.m. Cost details and further information can be obtained from the school office.

Volunteering at St. Mary's

The staff at St. Mary's are very pleased to welcome and engage with voluntary helpers who are keen to work alongside them in school. It is of great value to the children and to the whole school community. It is important that the relevant roles are fully understood from the outset in order to avoid any blurring of roles and to ensure confidentiality for all children. In this regard we request that parent helpers do not volunteer in their own child(ren)'s class - unless it is to accompany them on a school trip.

In support of this, the school ensures that volunteers are appropriately vetted. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in our care; we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you wish to help in school e.g. with 1:1 reading, cooking and school trips, you will be asked to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously the Criminal Records Bureau check). Please contact the School Office in the first instance to offer your services and staff will see if their needs match the offers of help. Induction will be provided to all volunteers helping in school.

Home School Agreement and Behaviour

All families receive a copy of our Home School Agreement. Parents and children have agreed to the document by coming to school. Please refer to this document to remind yourself of the Golden Rules and e-Safety rules which will be applied by all staff consistently.

We strive to create a happy learning environment and to emphasise caring behaviour at every level. The children are encouraged to care for each other and for the school. It is essential that there is mutual respect towards all members of the School community and that adults are role models to the children with the behaviour that is displayed by all who enter the school building.

To ensure a consistent standard of good behaviour throughout the school here is a reminder of our 'Golden Rules' with an emphasis on positive behaviour for the children:-

Care about each other. We listen and we don't hurt others, including their feelings.

Care about our School and community. We don't waste or damage things.

Always do your best. We don't waste our own or others' time.

Care about yourself. We act honestly and don't cover up the truth.

St. Mary's School Uniform Reminders

The children look very smart on their return to school and the new Year 5 children look very proud to be wearing their ties for the first time. Full uniform details can be found on the school website, but may we please remind you that children with long hair should have it tied back using simple navy or white coloured ties. Also, no makeup, nail varnish or jewellery is to be worn. However, one pair of stud earrings and a watch are allowed. Finally, socks should be grey, navy or white and tights can be either navy or grey. **ALL CLOTHING AND BAGS MUST BE CLEARLY AND PERMANENTLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

Mobile Phones

All children in Years 5 and 6 have been provided with the Mobile Device Usage Policy. This has been devised by children, staff and Governors. If they wish to bring a mobile phone to school they will be agreeing to the terms of this Policy. Mobile phones are not to be used in the school grounds by children.

Individual School Photographs - Tuesday 19th September

Individual and family photos will be taken on Tuesday 19th September. Family photos are scheduled to start at 8.30 a.m; this is where pre-school children can have a picture taken on their own or with their sibling. Children with a sibling at the school will have a sibling picture taken during school hours. **Please note, school aged pupils must be in class by 8.55 a.m. to ensure lessons start promptly.**

Out of School Achievements

Alana completed the Green Park Triathlon and came second in her age group.
Congratulations.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Erin and Theo
Year 1: Luca W and Albert
Year 2: Oscar and Imogen
Year 3: Ruby and Bailey
Year 4: Henry and Macy
Year 5: Henry and Luca
Year 6: Phoebe and Amber

Ian Whybrow Visit

We are excited to let you know that next week is Ian Whybrow week at St Mary's. Ian is a much loved and well-known author of over 100 children's books and we are really pleased that he has been able to make time to visit us here at St Mary's. Each class will be reading a book/books by Ian Whybrow over the coming week and getting to know a little more about him and his work (Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs, Meerkat Madness, Little Wolf's Book of Badness etc).

His visit takes place on Friday 15th September and he will be officially opening the new Story Shack in the playground and meeting with all the classes at different points during the day.

The children will get time to chat to Ian, so if you or your children are already fans now is the time to discuss what questions they might like to put to him.

Introducing Rock Steady

Owing to popular demand, we are very excited to be welcoming Rock Steady to St. Mary's on Monday. They will be taking all classes from Years 1 to 6 for workshops and will start the morning off with a whole school assembly, including Reception children. Rock Steady is a peripatetic music service that enables any child to learn an instrument and perform in their very own rock band. We have received many requests from parents to source this particular organisation and we are very fortunate that they have agreed to work with St. Mary's on Friday mornings starting this term. They are extremely highly recommended by other local schools who also work with them. Further details will be sent home next week.

St. Mary's School Association

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.

Uniform Sale

There will be a second hand uniform sale next Friday after school.

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.

Road Safety Reminder

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.

School Governors Required

The school urgently requires a number of school governors, both parent and foundation. This is a rewarding and worthwhile role contributing to the school environment and education of the children. If you are able to assist, please contact the School Office/Chair of Governors. Any questions can be answered by existing governors.

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. 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

St Mary's Pre-School

Pre-school would like to offer our new and existing families a very warm welcome.

We have been delighted to settle our lovely new children into Pre-school this week and it is also great to see some of the children that have moved up to Nursery joining us in the afternoons.

The children have enjoyed the many resources and activities on offer, and have loved playing outside, exploring and climbing, whatever the weather! The new play surface has allowed us to reinstate our lovely low-level climbing equipment which has proved as popular as ever.

For more information about a place at Pre-school please see Lisa Burkett at the end of a school day, or email

stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

We wish you a lovely weekend.

Diary Dates

15th September - Ian Whybrow Author Visit

15th September – 2nd hand uniform sale after school

19th September – School photographs

29th September – Y2 trip to St Albans Abbey

5th October - Harvest Festival church service

10th October – Open class rooms

17th October - School Association AGM

18/19th October – Parent Consultations

23-27th October – Half Term

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Curriculum Letters	All Years	Attachment to Newsletter
Extra-Curricular Club Letters	All Years	Attachment to Newsletter
Ross & Andy's football club letter	Year 1-6	Email
Diary Dates	All Years	Attachment to Newsletter
Choir at the O2	Years 5-6	Paper letter
Clubs summary letter	All Years	Attachment to Newsletter

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

Next newsletter on Friday 22nd September.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend. The children deserve a well-earned rest after a very busy first week back at school. V. M. Hunt.