



ANNUAL REPORT FROM ST MARY'S SCHOOL FOR ST MARY'S PCC – March 2017

The past year at St. Mary's has seen the school have its highest ever numbers on roll of 222 children, including nursery. We had 30 children who started school for each of the Reception and Nursery 2016 intakes and another 30 children are confirmed for the 2017 intake. It is lovely to see the school flourishing and to be able once again to reflect on our growth into a full Primary School.

The Year 1 children undertook the statutory phonics screening check in June, assessing the children's ability to decode words using only their phonic knowledge and this year 90% of the children achieved the qualifying mark, compared to 77% in June 2015.

We are also pleased with our continuing high attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2), with results significantly above those achieved nationally last year.

2016 saw our first Year 6 cohort of 14 children sit the new end of Key Stage 2 tests. Our overall combined reading, writing and mathematics result was 64%, with the Herts figure being 59% and the National 53%. For the reading test the children achieved 93% which placed us in the top 6% Nationally. A result of which we are justifiably very proud and a testament to the hard work of staff and children alike.



The School Development Plan (SDP) enables us to achieve our School Aims and Vision by setting objectives for improving teaching and learning, and considering standards of achievement and pupil well-being. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team regularly report progress of the plan at Committee and full Governors' meetings.

Each of these priorities is supported by a number of SMART objectives.

1. ***(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment).*** For all teaching to be at least 'Good' with an increase in 'Outstanding' teaching throughout the year.
2. ***(Outcomes for pupils at the school).*** To raise the proportion of children meeting and exceeding age related expectations across the school.
3. ***(Quality of Leadership and Management).*** To enable children to feel safe to take risks and challenge themselves in order to reach their true potential.
4. ***(Quality of Leadership and Management).*** To develop the role of subject co-ordinators and middle leadership.

The areas for school development have been selected for the following reasons:-

- A large number of observed lessons continue to be good with some outstanding features and some outstanding lessons. This is clearly an improving picture. However, in line with recommendations from Ofsted the school wants to continue to work towards a higher proportion of outstanding lessons across the school ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible provision and reach their potential. This target continues to be a focus for the school to ensure that

an increased amount of pupils exceed expected progress, more able pupils continue to be challenged and disadvantaged children across the school make at least expected progress.

- To maintain the continued rise in standards of writing through ensuring marking and feedback impact positively on children's progress
- To further develop children's learning attitudes through teaching children about Growth Mindset so they feel safe to take risks and challenge themselves in order to reach their true potential and to embed the new Positive Behaviour Policy.
- To develop the role of subject co-ordinators so staff members clearly understand their roles and responsibilities as co-ordinators and can identify next steps when continuing to deliver the new curriculum, especially at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

At the end of the Christmas term Mrs. Bristow left the school office to take up a post elsewhere, and at the end of this February half term we said a fond farewell to Mrs. Young when she retired. Governors, staff and children all gathered together for a special assembly when the children read poems and the choir sang to Mrs. Young. It was a very moving occasion and we all wished Mrs. Young a long and happy retirement, having spent the past 26 years welcoming children and parents to St. Mary's.

The school has been without a Road Crossing Patrol for the past year when funding was withdrawn by the Highways Authority. However, in September we were fortunate enough to receive funding provided by the Parish Council to enable us to employ a Crossing Patrol. Following her training, Mrs. Delderfield has been helping children and adults safely cross the road.

Premises Projects carried out this year:

- Replacement of the windows in the Year 1-4 classrooms (a grant was secured to fund this)
- Replacement of gates in the Foundation Stage area to improve security.
- Building of a Story Shack in the quiet garden.
- New trim trail in the lower playground.
- New doors to the classrooms in Years 1 to 4, cookery room and to lobby area so that they are in line with safeguarding and fire precautions.
- New finger guards fitted to all doors.
- New drain in the top playground to prevent the wall from becoming damp.
- New flat roof fitted to the top end of the building.
- Damp proofing injected into exterior walls at top of the building next to the music room to protect from damp.
- The tree in the top playground was removed by the Parish Council as the roots were causing damage.

Our Christian values underpin our school culture and every half term we still focus on a different value. For the children this is mainly explored through Collective Worship, RE lessons and as part of the SEAL curriculum (Social and emotional aspects of learning). We inform the parents in the newsletter, encouraging the whole school community to focus on the value together. The staff think about how they can embody the value, when they discuss it at a staff meeting.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Value</u>
Autumn 1	Hope	Spring 2	Trust
Autumn 2	Friendship	Summer 1	Love
Spring 1	Endurance	Summer 2	Compassion

We are proud to be a church school, with a distinctive Christian ethos and were delighted to be awarded the Gold RE Quality Mark at the end of the summer term in recognition of the high quality RE provision at St. Mary's.

In RE lessons, pupils learn about Christianity and the other principal world religions. Throughout its operation, the school promotes the fundamental British values including mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. To enrich the curriculum, Mrs Archbold organises many exciting trips and activities for the children. This year the children have enjoyed numerous trips and visits to enrich their understanding of Christianity and other world religions, in addition to the regular church services and assemblies run by Jonathan. These have included Remembrance, Carol Service, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Mother's Day and Easter Services and owing to its success last year, another outdoor Pentecost Service which was once again held on the school field.

- Year 2 have visited St Mary's Church and Northchurch Baptist Church.
- Years 1 to 5 have taken part in the Easter Workshop run by Northchurch Baptist Church
- Year 1 visited St. Albans Synagogue
- Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral in September

- Year 3 visited the North Watford Mosque
- Year 4 visited Bhaktidevanta Manor, to help them understand and respect the Hindu faith. They enjoyed a traditional Indian lunch, a bullock cart ride and dressing up in traditional clothes.
- Year 2 has enjoyed a visit from Jonathan
- Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Rafi.
- In December the whole school once again held a Christingle service which was a lovely way to conclude the Autumn Term.

In addition to the RE related trips and visits, the children also enjoyed other trips and activities at school, including:

- Year 3 trip to Amersham Field Study Centre
- Year 2 had trips to Tring Museum, College Lake and Tesco at Tring
- St. John's Ambulance, Fire Brigade, a Paramedic, a dentist, Guide Dogs for the Blind and local Magistrates have visited the school to talk to the children throughout the course of the year
- Children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Berkhamsted Ukulele Festival
- Year 3 visited Berkhamsted Castle
- Year 1 have taken part in a concert at the Collegiate School
- Year 3 visited Celtic Harmony in Hertford to experience life as a Celt
- Year 5 have been to the British Museum and the National Space Centre in Leicester
- Nursery and Reception visited Willows Farm, St. Albans
- Year 4 visited Verulamium Museum, St. Albans
- Year 4 and 5 took part in road safety awareness training
- Year 5 had a trip to Hazard Alley
- Year 5 and 6 took part in Cycle Training
- Year 6 had a trip to Phasels Wood and also experienced pizza making at Pizza Express
- The whole school enjoyed a performance of 'The Magic Castle' as the end of term treat from the School Association in December
- Whole school visit and performance by Masaai Warriors
- Year 4 had a residential visit to Green Park accompanied by Mrs. Christie and Mrs. Archbold
- Year 6 had a residential visit to Kingswood Activity Centre accompanied by Mrs. Dobbs, Mr. Potter and Mrs. Bottali.
- The choir have also sung at the Royal Albert Hall and at the O2 Arena during the past year.

Year 5 took part in the 'Fiver Challenge' organised by the Chamber of Commerce and made presentations to the Mayor and local dignitaries at the Town Hall in July 2016.

We have continued to work with Living Streets, on the WOW (Walk to school Once a Week) campaign. Children are encouraged to walk to school and those who do are rewarded with collectable badges. St Mary's continues to have one of the highest proportions of children who walk to school in the area.

The Smoult Trust has been most supportive to the school during the past year and has kindly provided funding to enable two children go on residential visits with their classes and also to purchase books for the Story Shack.

Supported by the Sports Premium funding, we continue to invest in equipment, paid for specialist PE coaching and staffing, bought into staff training and teaching resources, with the aim of sustainable improvement in the quality of PE teaching and learning. We have enjoyed being able to take part in an increasing amount of sport and our football and netball teams compete in local leagues and take part in friendly matches against other local schools. Various sporting activities during the past year include:

- Several Cross Country run events
- County Cross Country run at St. Albans where we qualified for the national championships
- Trips to Sportspace to take part in various inter school activities
- Tri- Golf at Ashlyns School for Year 3.
- Berkhamsted Inter Schools Swimming Galas for Years 4, 5 and 6 with the Year 4 team having their second consecutive winning performance.
- Girls' football with Ross and Andy
- Mini Olympics, Cricket and Tennis for various year groups.
- Dacorun Skip2bfit Competition



We are very proud of what the children have achieved in sport and PE at St. Mary's and this will continue to be an area of focus and development for us.

Some of the many activities that have run this year have included (*free of charge);

Sports – Running Club*, Netball Club, Boogaloo Boogie, Street Dance, Tennis Club, Cricket Club, Speed-stacking*

Other – Sewing Club*, Chess Club*, Forest School*, Green Team*, Gardening Club*, , Collective Worship*, Christian Union*, Violin, Piano, Guitar and Recorder* and ukulele* tuition and Choir*, Football Club, Netball Club, Girls' Football Club, Mini-Olympics.

As ever, the School Association has worked very hard, raising money throughout the past year. Successful events included a Spring and Christmas Fair, Gatsby Evening and Auction, Parents' Quiz, Discos, Film Clubs, School Calendar, Smartie Challenge, Photos by Carrie, Charity Match and Christmas Trees for Schools Scheme. They are funding i-Pads, new football kit, Mother's Day flowers for every child, a contribution towards two school trips for every class and are currently raising money to help the Governors with a building project to upgrade the toilets in the top end of the school.

We encourage the whole school community to support local and national charities and this year we have raised money for, Children in Need, The Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal, Homestart Dacorum, Rennie Grove Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Watford Special Care Baby Unit.

Ms Gore and Mrs O'Dell have continued to develop the use of the forest school area, which encourages children to become comfortable with an outdoor approach to education. The after-school Forest School Club has been rotated across the year groups, as we want all children to have the opportunity to enjoy these activities.

Activities have included bush-craft skills (lighting fires) on which they have toasted marshmallows and heated milk for hot chocolate, building shelters, arts and crafts using woodland materials, making chairs from old logs, learning about the natural world (investigating habitats, creating homes for wildlife), as well as games.

The wraparound child care continues to be very popular with our parents. This means that children can be looked after at Breakfast Club from 7.45 a.m. and remain in school at the after school club until collection at 6.00 p.m. Children who are not in full-time education are able to join our lunch club and then take part in Pre-School, before joining the older children after school for the club.

The annual music concert in July was once again a highlight of the year. Children learning music within and outside school were given the chance to perform in the concert, organised by Mrs Christie, with the kind help of Mr. and Mrs. Horton.

In July, the KS2 production, "Wind in the Willows" was another highlight and included singing and acting of an exceptionally high standard.

The Nursery and Reception and Year 1 and 2 Nativity performances in December were thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school and all the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 were given the opportunity to take part and perform in front of their families and friends. Years 3 and 4 then took centre stage in the Carol Concert at the end of the Autumn Term in St. Mary's Church. This was a lovely occasion as the Parish Council took the opportunity to present Mrs. Young with the long service award - the Bainbridge Trophy.

We see music as an area to continue to develop at St Mary's. We have renegotiated our contract with the Herts Music Service, to include providing training for our teachers, to develop the quality of music provision in the classroom. We continue to offer peripatetic music lessons in violin, guitar and piano. The music service also runs a school choir (free of charge to parents), where the children are prepared for events during the year. They proudly performed in front of their families at the Royal Albert Hall on 13th March last year and at the O2 Arena on the 6th



February this year.

St Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their running 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 encouraged to pay a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Governors who have left during the past year, for their dedication and contribution:-

Lara Pringle and Jana Toon

Our Co-Chairs since September 2016 are Alan Kemp and Reverend Jonathan Gordon.

Because we are a Church school the majority of the Governors are appointed by the PCC and the Diocese. Replacement governors are currently required and we would ask for consideration to be given by anyone who would be interested in this very rewarding position, which makes a real difference to the school and the local community.

The Governing body have worked extremely hard throughout the past year, providing support and challenge, for which the school is extremely grateful.

Vanessa Hunt
Headteacher at St. Mary's CE Primary School

Alan Kemp and Rev. Jonathan Gordon
Co-Chairs of Governors at St. Mary's CE Primary School