



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Tuesday 19th December 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

Daniel W & Phoebe G have been awarded a Ross & Andy Football Club's 'Fair Play Award' trophy.

Luca W & Scarlett W have been awarded a Ross & Andy Football Club's 'Player Of The Term' trophy.

Callum P won the Olympic Park duathlon (run-bike-run) in the Tristar 1 category beating athletes from all over the Eastern Region.

James S has been picked to play football for Dacorum's football district team.

Rose M, Harry M & Poppy S were competition winners of 'Stars of the Future', representing Alfonso School of Performing Arts. The group will compete in the national finals in Blackpool in February 2018

Congratulations to you all.

Goodbye Mrs Bottali

Today we said a fond farewell to Mrs Bottali who after seven years at St Mary's, is leaving us so that she can spend more time with her family. We will really miss her but wish her every happiness for the future.

Netball

St Mary's netball team's third league game was against Brockswood. It was a bitterly cold evening but all the girls were very excited and gave it their all throughout the game. The girls have done very well so far in the league, winning 8-3 against Lime Walk, drawing 8-8 against Brockswood and only just losing against Aycliffe Drive 5-4. Keep up the good work girls.

Football

Brockswood against St Mary's. St Mary's won the game 6-0 but both teams played really well and with great attitude.

District Cross Country Championship

District Cross Country: 2nd place overall!

We are delighted to announce the results of the District Cross Country! The girls' team came sixth overall while the boys' team came first. The combined scores of both teams were added together to give us the silver medal overall! Huge congratulations to all of the children who competed for such a great result!

Christmas School Fayre

Thank you to the School Association for the all their hard work in organising the Christmas Fayre. The event raised an amazing £3,740. Thank you also to parents for all your support in making the Christmas Fayre a huge success.

Snow Closure

Thank you for your support over the snow closure. The decision to close any school is not taken lightly. The Chair of Governors and I took the decision to close for the following reasons:

- High probability that insufficient staff could make it to School to allow legal opening.
- Locality of school provided additional risks to children and parents walking / travelling to school.
- Unable to guarantee that School grounds sufficiently cleared to allow safe access.
- Predicted overnight temperatures of minus 5 degrees on uncleared roads, pavements and school grounds.
- High probability of weather related power cuts.

It is not a decision taken lightly but it is about putting pupil, parent and staff safety first.

Miss Hunt & Chair of Governors

RE Autumn Term Update

There have been big changes to the teaching of RE this academic year with the introduction of a new Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and a new resource; Understanding Christianity. Over the last few months I have been updating the whole school curriculum map for RE with these in mind and it will continue to be evaluated and improved during the year. We will continue to focus the majority of learning on Christianity, but the children will also learn about other world religions and people of no faith during their time at St Mary's, enabling them to understand and respect differences of belief.

It is by making links and comparisons with people of different faiths and none that allows the children to develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue and to cooperate in society with respect and compassion. Mrs Archbold

Homework Club

There are still a few places left in Homework Club after school every Monday. Please contact Mr. Potter if your child wishes to attend after Christmas (Years 3 to 6 only).

September 2018 Reception

If you have a sibling of a current St Mary's pupil who is due to join our Reception cohort next September, please do complete our Supplementary Information Form under the admissions tab on the school website, or collect one from the office and return it as soon as possible to the office. This will ensure that your sibling is considered under Criteria 2 of our Admissions Policy 2018.

Applications for Reception places next September must be made before **15 January 2018**.

Carol Service

The Year 3 and Year 4 children performed brilliantly at the Carol Service on Thursday night. Thank you to Mrs. Christie and Miss Groves for all their hard work and thank you to all the friends and families who came to the service. It was a lovely evening.

Christingle Service

Thank you to parents for sending in oranges. The children decorated them beautifully, ready for the Christingle Service this morning in the school hall. This was a lovely way on which to end the term. Thank you to Jonathan for leading the service and to Mrs. Archbold and Year 6 for organising it.

Santa's Sleigh

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the Santa's Sleigh. We will only know the amount raised in the New Year when the School receive their allocated share. The money will be going towards paying the school crossing patrol.

School Association

Thank you to the School Association for organising and paying for the Pantomime 'Treasure Island' which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Also thank you for providing the crackers for the Christmas Lunch on Thursday.

Maths Evening – postponed until 24th January

We will now be holding the maths evening on Wednesday 24th January, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Please save the date.

Thanks, Mr Potter

Music Lessons

Please note that a full half term's notice is required to cancel a music lesson.

Absences

Please call the school office by 9.00am if your child is absent from school. A message must be left for each day of absence on the absence line. This is for Safeguarding purposes.

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

Ashlyns Admission Arrangements Consultation

The Governors of Ashlyns are consulting on a change to their Admission Arrangements from September 2019. More information can be found on the school website:

<https://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/school-life/admissions/>

They would be grateful if you could send any comments you have on these arrangements via email to governors@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk or by post to Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3AH. Responses should be sent no later than 5 January 2018. The Governors will be meeting after this date to determine these arrangements.

Pre-school Bulletin 15/12/17

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed talking about our fun in the snow, and we finished making our Christmas decorations and Christmas cards. The classroom looked fabulously festive for our Christmas open afternoon.

We were very excited to welcome the Mums and Dads and little ones into Pre-school on Thursday. We all enjoyed some mince pies and biscuits, and we had some lovely craft activities to keep everyone busy! We made special reindeer food, iced some gingerbread men, and made some sparkly glitter collage decorations. We finished our afternoon by performing a medley of children's Christmas songs to our very appreciative audience!

We would like to thank everyone for coming along to support us, and we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

School Office

The school office opening hours are:

08:30 – 09:30am

14:30 – 15:20pm

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.

applies for Dinner Money for Years 3-6. Thank you for your continued support.

School Gateway Reminder

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

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

Diary Dates

19th December – End of Term 1:30pm

4th January – Start of Spring Term – children return to school

4th January – Spring term guitar lessons start

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
School Nursing Service	Reception	Email
Autumn Term RE News & Events	All	Email
RE Curriculum Map 2017-2018	All	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 5th January.

Happy Christmas – “God bless us, every one!”

It now just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year as I reach the end of my third year as Head at St. Mary's. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank everyone so much for your kind words of support, cards and gifts. It has been an extremely busy term, beginning with Ofsted and, concluding with all our lovely Nativities, Carol and Christingle Services. Everyone deserves a really good rest, not least all the amazing staff at St. Mary's who work so hard. St. Mary's is a fantastic school and I am proud to be its Head.

Miss V.M. Hunt