



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 19th January 2018
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Trust
Learning to learn skill : Determination

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Amelie vD has been awarded a musical theatre rosette – blue award. Amelie has also passed her Ballet Preparatory Grade with a distinction and has passed Stage 2 swimming level.

Benjamin A has been awarded a trophy in Tae Kwon-do for the most improved student of 2017.

Daniel W has been awarded a musical theatre rosette – blue award.

Emilia T has passed Grade 3 Viola.

Esme A has been awarded a musical theatre rosette – blue award.

Eva L has passed Stage 2 swimming level.

Hayley J has been awarded a musical theatre rosette – blue award. Hayley has also passed her Ballet Preparatory Grade with a distinction

Poppy S has been awarded a musical theatre rosette – green award. Poppy has also passed her Tap Preparatory Grade with a distinction and has passed Stage 2 swimming level.

Congratulations to you all.

Celebrations Assembly

The Special Achievers certificates went to:

Nursery : Anya, George, Luna, Sophia
Reception: Summer, Jacob, Leila, William
Year 1: Devon, Isabella, Louis, Madeline
Year 2: Daniel, Jack, Lexie, William
Year 3: Joshua, Layla, Mia, Martha
Year 4: Alice, Emily, Mollie, Robin, Ruby
Year 5 : Abigail, Adam, Poppy, Thomas
Year 6: Bobby, Lottie, Rory, Violet

Well done to all of the children.

Boy's football – Home v Gade Valley

Congratulations to the boys on a good win after a tricky first half. After going 2-1 and 3-2 behind late on, they came through to win 7-3 in the end, with goals from Rory Hunt, Callum Powell and Billy Read. Special congratulations to Callum Powell, who was Man of the Match. Mr Potter

Ashlyn's Maths Challenge

A big "well done" to Anna, Lily, Dougal, James, Emilia C and Bella who represented the school extremely well at the Ashlyn's Maths Challenge on Thursday afternoon. They coped very well with a series of tricky puzzles and challenges, showing off their excellent maths skills.

Maths Evening – Wednesday 24th January

We will be holding the maths evening on Wednesday 24th January, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. This will be a useful evening as you will be able to find out how your children are taught maths and it is a good opportunity to hear about the recent developments in maths teaching. **We still need more responses to make this evening viable.**

Thanks, Mr Potter

News From Reception

We have had a great week in Reception being Arctic explorers in our new Role play area. The children are discussing how different this environment is to our own home environment. We have all made some fabulous penguins and snowflakes to decorate it. The children particularly like the igloo tent.

We have enjoyed learning about our own houses and even know what type of house we live in i.e. semi-detached or a bungalow. Many of us have enjoyed being builders in the role play outside and have carried on discussing houses as we played.

We are all able to use the addition monster and we are looking forward to playing with him some more next week.

Mrs Bates

Bollywood dance workshop

We are very excited to say that to complement the whole school topic of this half term, 'The World Around Us', we have booked a Bollywood dance workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will take place on **Thursday 1st February** and each class will take part in a 45 minute session where they will learn a short 'Bollywood' style dance routine.

Parents will have the opportunity to watch the children perform the dances in the hall from 3.05pm.

The School Association have kindly donated all of the money towards the workshops and so there will be no charge.

New playground markings

We are delighted to reveal our new lower playground markings. This includes a new netball pitch, football area and playground games. We hope the children will enjoy making use of these new facilities at playtimes and lunchtimes.

5 Star Kitchen

Many congratulations to Mrs. Pemberton and her team on achieving a 5 Star rating in the recent Environmental Health visit. This result is a great reflection of the high standards required to achieve such a good report and the lovely lunches at St Mary's are very much appreciated by children and school staff. Really well done.

Home packed lunches

If your child has a packed lunch from home could you please make sure that it is a healthy packed lunch. We are always encouraging the children to have healthy foods and so would appreciate no chocolate, fizzy drinks or sweets in lunch boxes. Can we also remind everyone that Thursdays are 'crisp free'!
Thank you

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

School Uniform

If your child wears boots to school they must bring in a pair of indoor shoes.

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 (Years 3 to 6 only).

Pre-school Bulletin 19/01/18

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed the story of 'Bear snores on'.

We have talked about the bear hibernating during the cold weather, and we have made a special bear cave using some tables and a large piece of fabric. The children have then loved pretending to be bears! This forms part of their Expressive Arts and Design development.

Next week we shall be looking at the difference between warm water and cold water, and what clothing we might need for warm and cold weather.

For information about a place at Pre-school please see Lisa Burkett at the end of the school day, or email stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

Parking

Please do not park on the single yellow lines on New Road when dropping and collecting children. Also, please do not leave children unattended in vehicles. Thank you for keeping our children safe.

Victoria CE Infant & Nursery School and The Thomas Coram CE School Consultation

The governing bodies of Victoria CE Infant & Nursery School and The Thomas Coram CE School are holding a consultation on creating a Federation between the two schools. The consultation document, and a link to the online response form, can be found on the collaboration page of both schools' websites. The consultation runs from Friday 5 January 2018 to Friday 16 February 2018 at midday. Your views are welcome.

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 whether this is for illness or holidays. A message must be left for **each day** of absence on the absence line. This is for Safeguarding purposes.

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.

Breakfast Club

There are a few spaces available at 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

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

Social Media

It has been brought to our attention that some parents have been using class Facebook/Whatsapp groups as a platform to moan and make derogatory comments about the School and the School Association. We have decided to mention it now as this has been raised several times recently and other parents are concerned about the tone of the comments and what is being said. Also, the information that is sent around in these groups or on the playground is not always factually correct, but hearsay or only part of the true picture.

Firstly, we would like to point out that schools are very busy places and there is so much to organise every single day; staff consistently work incredibly hard and any decisions that are made are taken after careful consideration and by staff who have the bigger picture. We always take into account the best interests of the school community, and in particular the children.

The parent section of the Home-School Agreement states that parents will: "Support the school approach to online safety and not deliberately upload or add any text, image, sound or videos that could upset or offend any member of the school community ..." Please adhere to this and bring any concerns directly to us rather than encouraging these unhelpful messages. If these groups are used, purely for class information, they serve a really useful purpose. The administrator of the group must be a parent of a child in that class at St. Mary's and should also be responsible for removing any past parents, with children no longer at the school, and any messages that are inappropriate. School-home links are so much more effective when we all work together. Thank you.

Alan Kemp and Vanessa Hunt
Chair of Governors Headteacher

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Forest School Club	2,3,4,5,6	Email
Year 2 Northchurch Baptist Church	2	Email
Year 6 Jazz Concert	6	Email
Curriculum Letters	All Years	Email
Wendover Cross Country Competition	4,5,6	Email
Spring Term Guitar Lessons Invoice	3/4/5/6	Paper Copy Invoice
Cycle Training	5/6	Email
O2 Letter	5/6	Email
Spring Term Piano Lessons Invoice	3/4/5/6	Paper Copy Invoice
Maths Evening Letter	R/1/2/3/4/5/6	Email
Valentine's Disco	All Years	Paper Copy

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

Next newsletter on Friday 2nd February.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

Miss V.M. Hunt