



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 23rd February 2018

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt

Core Christian Value for this half term: Humility

Learning to learn skill : Independence

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Amelie S has been awarded a Stage 7 Swim England award.

Eva, Lottie, Madeline, Paige and Zennor have all made their Rainbow Promise.

Callum P finished 9th overall as a 1st year in the Chiltern Cross Country League. The league incorporates five races from October to February with the final race taking place in Milton Keynes on Saturday where Callum finished 6th.

Thomas O has been awarded Level 1 in Music Performance and awarded Grade 2 Guitar with distinction.

Congratulations to you all.

St Albans Cross Country Run 2018 Hertfordshire Schools Cross Country Championships

The children all ran well over a tough, muddy and hilly course in St Albans. Congratulations to all who represented the school, and especially well done to Callum Powell, who won the Year 5 Boys race. He has been selected for the Hertfordshire team at the National Championships.

Boy's football – Home v Hobbs Hill Wood

Well done to the boys' football team for a spirited performance against Hobbs Hill. Unfortunately, they didn't win. A particular well done to Jack Hardcastle who scored twice.

Mr Potter

Year 1 InterSchools Event at Sportspace

Yesterday Year 1 took part in an InterSchools sports event at Sportspace. They took part in lots of different activities such as giant speed stacking, beanbag throwing, jumping and basketball bouncing. The children were extremely well behaved, tried hard with all the activities and St Mary's School came 3rd! Well done everyone.

Miss Gore

Year 5 & 6 Cycle Training

Congratulations to the children in Year 5 and 6 who have undertaken levels 1, 2 & 3 cycle training this week. They have demonstrated great stoicism in coping with the adverse weather conditions - rain at the beginning of the week and freezing temperatures at the end. The trainers all commented what a credit you were to the school. Very well done to you all.

Andy Instone Visit

The children in Key Stage 2 were very excited to be visited by Andy Instone yesterday, founder of Urban Strides, the world famous street dance crew. He spoke to them during an assembly about his inspirational journey to success, the hard work and the growth mindset attitude that he needed. He also demonstrated some of his moves and explained how important it is to never give up. This was especially exciting for the choir, who had seen Andy and Urban Strides perform during the O2 concert, at which they sang. It was also a lovely way of reinforcing our Growth Mindset philosophy at St. Mary's.

School Disco

A big thank you to the School Association for organising the Valentine Discos. Also thank you to Mr Huke (parent of Adam) for volunteering as the DJ. The discos raised an amazing £518.

Date for your diary – World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 1st March. This year, we have decided to celebrate the occasion by asking the children and staff to dress up as book characters. We would also like children to bring in the book which their character is from. Start searching for or better still, making interesting costumes!

If you're struggling to find a costume for your child here are some ideas to help you :

- Wear your pyjamas (you could be Wendy or Michael Darling from Peter Pan),
- Wear your own casual clothes but bring in a prop, such as a golden ticket for Charlie and the Chocolate factory,
- Be a 'Boy in a Dress' to celebrate David Walliams book,
- Wear a football costume (Frankie's Magic Football by Frank Lampard).

We look forward to seeing them.

Mrs Zimet

News From Reception

Kung Hei Fat Choi! We have had a fantastic start back to school with our Chinese New Year celebrations. We have looked at Chinese items and learnt the story of how the Chinese New Year was decided. Many of us have dressed up in the clothes and pretended to eat wool noodles with chopsticks. We watched dragon dancing on the clever touch board and some of us have made our own songs with the percussion instruments.

In PE we pretended to be the Chinese animals in the race and then we worked in groups to create a dragon dance of our own. The teams collaborated really well together and had a great time.

Next week we will have a Chinese activity day with Nursery where we will be trying some Chinese Food. Please inform me if you have any worries or concerns regarding allergies. We will have lychees, seaweed, noodles and some fortune cookies. We also have a visitor on Tuesday who will talk to us about Chinese traditions.

Mrs Bates

Pre-school Bulletin 22/02/18

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed welcoming the children back after the half term break. We have celebrated Chinese New Year and tried our hand at traditional music and dance. We have also practised our cutting skills as we made Chinese lucky envelopes.

Next week we shall be looking forward to spring by planting some bulbs. We shall be talking to the children about how we can care for the bulbs to help them to grow.

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

Parent Consultations – save the date

Parent consultations will be on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th March. As part of their transition to secondary school, Y6 children are invited to attend with their parents.

The on-line booking system will go live at 7pm on Saturday 10th March.

Rucksacks

From September 2018 only children in Years 5 and 6 will be allowed to bring rucksacks to school. Younger children must use the school book bag, their PE bags and a carrier bag if they need to carry anything extra. Children are currently bringing in very large rucksacks which are cluttering up the cloakrooms.

Rock Steady Assembly

On Friday 16th March at 2.30pm there will be a Rock Steady Assembly for those parents whose children are in the Rock Steady Band. The assembly should last for 30 minutes.

Open Classrooms

The next open classrooms event is on Friday March 16th, at 3.20pm for Reception to Year 6 parents. Parents are invited to come in and look at children's books.

Nursery parents are welcome to come in and look at children's work first thing in the morning at drop off.

Music Lessons

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

Drug and Alcohol Awareness Workshop for Parents/Guardians

Westfield School is holding a Parental Drug & Alcohol Awareness Workshop for parents/carers of pupils on Monday 19th March 2018. They are extending the invitation to this event to parents and carers of pupils attending other local schools in Berkhamsted, however please note that places are limited and will be offered on a first come, first served, basis. The workshop will run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, in the main school hall. To book your place(s) on this workshop, please contact Westfield Primary School & Nursery on 01442 862729 or send an email to: admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

Absences

Please call the school office by 9.00am if your child is absent from school whether this is for illness or holidays. Please specify the illness eg high temperature or vomiting. A message must be left for **each day** of absence on the absence line. This is for Safeguarding purposes.

On return from an absence please confirm in writing the length of time your child has been absent for and the reason.

Any late arrivals must be signed in the green late folder and a **full** reason for the lateness must be given.

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.

All emails to the school office must be sent to admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk

Emails should not be sent via the School Gateway as this inbox account is not monitored.

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.

Checklist of Letters sent home in the last two weeks

PLEASE CHECK EMAIL AND BOOK BAGS FOR LETTERS

Title	Class	Via
Junior String Day	3/4/5/6	Email
Mother's Day Secret Room	All Years	Paper copy
Keeping Safe Day	3	Email
Year 1 Sportspace Event	1	Email
Bridgewater Cross Country Event – Saturday March 3 rd	3/4/5/6	Email
Nursery newsletter February 9 th & February 23 rd	Nursery	Email
Story Club	Reception	Email
Holdenby House Letter	5	Email
School Association – Quiz Night – Friday 9 th March	All	Paper Copy
Parental Drug & Alcohol Awareness Workshop – Westfield School	All	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 9th March.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

Miss V.M. Hunt