



St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 2nd February 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

Charlie W has completed his yellow belt in Tae Kwon-do. Charlie has also achieved the British Gymnastics trampoline proficiency award level 9.

Edie T has achieved Level 9 Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club's In House badge.

Elodee W has passed both Stage 3 and Stage 4 swimming badges.

Felix R-W has completed his white belt in Tae Kwon-do.

Hayley J has achieved Level 9 & Level 10 Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club's In House badges.

Paige W has completed her first park run.

Congratulations to you all.

Celebrations Assembly

The Special Achievers certificates went to:

Reception: Ella, Erin

Year 1: Eva, James

Year 2: Farida, Tyler

Year 3: Isabella, Amara

Year 4: Emily, Olly

Year 5 : Amy H, Callum

Year 6: Anna, Finlay

Well done to all of the children.

Wendover Cross Country Run

Congratulations to the children who represented the school at the cold, wet and muddy Wendover Cross Country run on Saturday 20th January. They all ran extremely well and did the school proud. The results were: Yr 6 Girls – Phoebe Goss 14th; Yr 6 Boys – Billy Read 5th & Finlay Black 30th; Yr 5 Boys – Callum Powell 1st; Yr 4 Girls – Molly Reece 4th; Yr 3 Girls – Martha Goss 15th. Well done to you all and thanks as usual to Mr Powell for his help.

Mr Potter

Girls' Football

A huge congratulations to the Year 6 girls who participated in our first ever all-girls' school football team match on Tuesday 23rd January. Although they didn't win, they showed great spirit and togetherness, and were a credit to the school. Special congratulations to Phoebe, who will forever be able to say she was the scorer of the historic first-ever St Mary's girls' team goal! Player of the Match was Phoebe Goss.

The girls' team played Two Waters Primary on Monday with a wonderful attitude towards each other and their application was outstanding. Player of the Match was Emilia Carroll.

Mr Potter

St Mary's Choir

Well done St Mary's Choir, you were fantastic at the O2 yesterday. The choir members had a very long day at the O2, with a long rehearsal during the afternoon followed by the amazing concert in the evening. It was a fabulous opportunity for the children to experience the excitement of singing for a large audience at an incredible venue with professional singers and musicians. The children sang and danced enthusiastically, keeping up an impressive level of energy throughout the performance. They proved themselves a great credit to the school and to their families.

Thank you for supporting them through this experience. Many thanks also to Miss Hunt and Mr Potter for accompanying us to the O2 and to Mrs Fleming for her invaluable support in the organisation.

Mrs Christie

School Association News

A huge thank you to the parents for all their hard work and for giving up their time on the Santa Sleigh in December. We are pleased to announce that it raised £960.

Taste of India & Bollywood Dance Workshop

Yesterday, year two experienced a taste of India! We started the day making Rangoli patterns with coloured sand and cooking chappati bread and raita. We then ate our Indian feast in the classroom and I was impressed with how the children embraced the new flavours. After lunch, we played the traditional 'tag' game 'Kabbadi', practised some yoga and then, along with Reception and year one, we finished off a fantastic day with learning and performing a Bollywood dance. We were all amazed at how brilliantly each class performed their dance, which they only had half an hour to learn. It was also so wonderful to see so many parents coming along to watch the dances. I'd like to give a special thank you to the School Association who kindly paid for the dancing workshops. Thank you also for the parent helpers who spent a whole morning cooking with year two. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Mrs Zimet

Year 6 Jazz Concert Trip

On Wednesday 24th January, Year 6 went on an exciting trip to Thomas Corum School for a fun-filled Jazz Concert. In the band there were four people : a piano player, a man who played the double bass, a drummer and a fantastic singer. We learnt a lot about different instruments and what they sound like. They played lots of brilliant songs and everyone was on their feet dancing. Year 6 had a great afternoon out and would definitely recommend jazz to other people.

Year 6 Children.

Parent Forum

We have our next Parent Forum meeting on Friday 9th March. If you have anything that you would like to raise for discussion, please contact your Parent Forum Rep by 23rd February. The parent reps are:

Nadia Lupo (Reception)

Tracy Webster (Year 1)

Julie Allen (Year 2)

Sarah Jones (Year 3)

Louise Cooley (Year 4)

Su Bennett (Year 5)

Lesley Bartholomew (Year 6)

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! We look forward to seeing them.
Mrs Zimet

BBC 500 Words Story Competition

Today some of the children in year 3 and 5 had a go at writing their first draft for the BBC 500 Words story competition. We are proud of our many talented writers at St Mary's and hope that some of you might like to enter the competition this year. The age categories are 5 - 9 and 10 - 13 and the deadline for entry is **Thursday 22nd February**.

The rules and details of the competition can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/children/s/activities

The entries must be made on line with an adult to approve the terms and conditions. The prizes include lots of books and a ride in the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car! Last year Lucinda won a silver award in the competition.

Good Luck.

Miss Forsyth and Mrs Zimet

Policy Regarding Inhalers In School

Any Ventolin inhalers brought into school must be handed to the class teacher for storage in the classroom's medical bag. Inhalers must not be left in a child's book bag. Any new users must complete a 'Parental Consent for Administration of Medicines' form. Please contact the school office if you require this form. Thank you.

Maths Evening

Thank you to all the parents who came to the maths evening on Wednesday 24th January. We hope that you found it to be a useful evening. Thanks, Mr Potter

Playground Rules

May we remind you of the school policy that no ball games, playing with the equipment or cycling or scootering on the playground should be taking place before or after school. In line with other local schools we discourage ball games as space is limited and the playground is very busy at these times of day. Children have been reminded of the rules. Thank you for your co-operation and for your support in keeping our children and adults safe on school premises.

News From Reception

The children have all worked so hard over the last couple of weeks. I am so pleased to see this learning now coming out in their independent play. We have addition number sentences, sentence writing and lots of vocabulary about our own environment and that of the North Pole.

The children have really enjoyed reading Lost and Found and many have written questions they would like to ask the Penguin or the boy about the journey.

We have continued to draw houses but this time our dream houses, I wish I could live in these houses with waterslides and bunnies! We then have had a marvellous time making model houses and painting them. I am amazed at the ingenuity and design of these models. However we are now very low on junk modelling boxes so would really appreciate any boxes i.e. cereal, tea, biscuit that you have at home. (Nothing previously containing any products with nuts).

It was also lovely to see so many parents at open classroom, thank you.

Mrs Bates

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.

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.

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

Music Lessons

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

Pre-school Bulletin 2/02/18

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed our mathematical activities using our 'compare bears'. We have counted and sorted them, and decided which ones were bigger and smaller. We have also used mathematical language such as 'more than' and 'one more'.

We have also practiced our fire drill this week, to ensure all the children are aware of what to do and who to follow in the event of an emergency.

Next week we shall be using the forthcoming Valentine's Day to talk to the children about who they love, and what they love best about them. The children will then make a card to take home.

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

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

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

Thank you to all the parents who came in on Wednesday. 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.

Roblox Game-Safeguarding

We have been made aware of a supposed warning from Kent Police about the dangers of the Roblox game. These warnings were not actually issued by Kent police but we are taking this opportunity to remind parents that Roblox, just as any other gaming website that allows players to interact, has its potential risks. At a recent CEOP event it was shared that there had been minor issues with inappropriate characters on the Roblox gaming site but that these had been resolved very quickly. Roblox is age rated for 8-18 year olds and there is a reporting facility should it be needed.

Our advice is not to stop children accessing age appropriate online games but to:

- Ensure they know how to report an incident when on any game
- Keep their information private at all times

-Talk with a trusted adult immediately if they have any concerns

-Check safety and privacy settings are limited to people they know in the real world

For more information please visit the childnet guidance for parents on Roblox at

<http://www.childnet.com/blog/roblox-a-guide-for-parents>

Internet Safety Day

Next Tuesday is safer internet day and we will be using the opportunity to talk to children about keeping themselves safe in all situations – not just internet related.

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
E-Safety Letter	All	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 23rd February.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

Miss V.M. Hunt