



**S<sup>t</sup> Mary's C of E Primary School**  
'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 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**

Farida H has been awarded a level 8 badge at Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club.

Lorelie Q was awarded a medal for attending Thinking Day with Brownies to remember Robert Baden Powell.

Pippa M has been awarded a level 10 badge at Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club.

Poppy B has been awarded a gold medal for vault in Miss Quatro gymnastics competition and was also awarded bronze certificates in the beam and floor section.

Poppy S was awarded a medal for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the junior group section of the national finals of 'Stars of the future' representing Afonso School of Performing Arts.

Rose M was awarded a medal for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the team dance section of the national finals of 'Stars of the future' representing Afonso School of Performing Arts.

Congratulations to you all.

**Celebrations Assembly**

The Special Achievers certificates went to:

Reception: Izzy, Rosie

Year 1: Lilly, Madeline, Selene

Year 2: Lucy, Milo

Year 3: Daisy, Phoebe

Year 4: Charlotte, Hugo

Year 5 : Lewis, Soraya

Well done to all of the children.

**Boy's football**

The A team had their final league game on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February away against Kings Langley. They picked up a solid 3-0 win with goals from Jack Hardcastle, Joe Pemberton and James Sales. The boys have done fantastically well in each of their games. Their record has finished as Played 9, Won 7, Lost 2, Drawn 0.

Well done to the boys' B team for a sterling performance against Bishop Wood. Unfortunately, they didn't win. A particular well done to Rory Hunt who scored four goals.

**World Book Day**

Last Thursday, we had a marvellous time celebrating World Book Day. The younger children enjoyed the opportunity to have the 'big children' reading stories to them in their classrooms. Teachers commented how lovely it was to see the children interacting so nicely, enjoying each other's company and sharing their love of books together.

Thank you to all parents for your support in providing costumes to enhance the experience for the children. We appreciate your efforts and the children loved showing them off in our catwalk parade during assembly! We think the staff enjoyed the catwalk even more - as you may have heard, we all dressed up as Wally and it was the children's job to spot the 'real Wally'- Me!

We all had a fun filled day (even if it was cut short by the snow!)

Mrs Zimet

**Sports Relief**

School Council would like to support Sport Relief on Tuesday 20th March. This is a fantastic charity that works with BBC sport to help raise money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries.

We have ordered some wristbands to raise money for this event, however there will be limited availability. We will be offering these on a first come first served basis on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. School Council Executive Committee will offer the older children wristbands during break time and then the remaining bands will be taken to the younger classrooms.

We will also be offering all children the chance to come into school in sports clothes, this includes trainers. We will be asking for a voluntary £1 contribution for this and all profits will go towards this worthwhile charity.

Please contact Mrs Bates if you have any further questions.

**Nursery Applications 2018/19**

If you wish to apply for a Nursery place for your child, please remember to apply by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. The application form and further details are on the school website.

### **Mother's Day Service & Mother's Day Secret Room**

The church was full to bursting at this morning's Mother's Day service in church. The pictures, poems, songs and prayers the children shared were delightful. Thank you to Jonathan for conducting it and to Mrs. Archbold for organising it. A huge thank you also goes to the School Association for preparing the flowers for the service and for organising the Mother's Day Secret Room. The School Association have worked incredibly hard this week. We all really appreciate this.

### **Pre-school Bulletin 9/3/18**

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed making our Mother's Day gifts, We planted freesia bulbs in beautiful biodegradable plant pots that the children had decorated. We then made some lovely heart decorations with buttons and ribbons. Next week we shall be investigating how our ICT toys work, and using the kindles to explore the 'Number Jacks' app.

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](mailto:stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com)

### **Saltmine Trust Theatre Company**

On Monday morning the children were treated to a performance by the Saltmine Trust Theatre Company of their production 'Secret Angels'. This explored the theme of building resilience to deal with problems and was told through familiar stories from the Bible using music, poetry and storytelling. Years 4 and 5 then had the opportunity to follow this up with an interactive workshop which enabled them to look at the theme in more detail. Thank you to Mrs. Archbold for organising this for the children.

### **School Council News**

We are setting up a healthy eating tuck shop. We have been extremely fortunate in that Mrs Holmes (Louis Y6) has invested in us and also arranged collection. Without her assistance we would not have been able to undertake this venture.

School Council are hoping to eventually make a profit and raise funds to improve playground facilities.

The tuck shop will be open on Thursday 15th March and Friday 16th at break time. It will be manned by the executive committee and we must stress we only have a few snacks at the moment until funds increase. We are offering Nims Air dried apple crisps at £1. We will offer it to Years 4, 5, 6 on Thursday and 1, 2, 3, on Friday if we have any left! We do not have very many items to run this tuck shop every week so at the moment it will be monthly, depending on the success. It will be first come first served.

This is a School Council venture that is totally their idea. I really hope they succeed and know they are very excited to run this activity.

If you think you could help us in any way with this venture please contact us.

Mrs Bates and School Council

### **News From Reception**

We were all very excited to have the Hemel Hempstead Fire Service visit us in school yesterday. This was in line with our learning about people who help us within the community. Sadly they received a call and had to leave after a few minutes but luckily they returned, as another fire engine was attending the emergency. A lot of very sad faces became very happy faces at seeing the engine return to the playground. The lady driver was very skilled at getting through the gates. The fire service spoke to us about fire safety and what their job entails. We then got to look around the engine and even sit in it!! Last week we were visited by a hairdresser and next week we are hoping to be joined by the local community police officer.

The snow disrupted us quite a bit last week but we still got to dress up for World Book day and thoroughly enjoyed the older children reading with us. We also enjoyed spotting the correct Wally from all the Wally teachers. The children all looked fantastic. Well done on such marvellous costumes.

Mrs Bates

### **Hats To School Day**

Thursday 29th March is Brain Tumour Research Charity Wear a Hat Day. As in previous years at St. Mary's, for a donation of £1, we will be inviting everybody to Wear a Hat to school to help raise funds. This can be a hat your child already has or the children might like to have fun making or decorating a hat. We are looking forward to seeing everybody looking Hattastic on the day!

### **Parent Consultations**

Parent consultations will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 4.20 pm to 8 pm or Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 3.40 pm to 6.00 pm. The on-line appointment booking system will go live at 7pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. As part of their transition to secondary school, Y6 children are invited to attend with their parents.

Please visit

<https://stmarysberkhamsted.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> and refer to the letter sent on March 6<sup>th</sup> to book your appointments.

### **Attendance**

In accordance with the terms of our Attendance Policy we are continually striving to achieve an attendance level of over 95%. Research tells us that attendance has a direct impact on progress and from next term, parents will be informed if their child's attendance falls below 95%. During the first half of the Spring term we achieved an attendance of 94.67%.

The attendance figures are as follows:

YN – 92.81%

YR – 91.80%

Y1 – 96.30%

Y2 - 91.67%

Y3 – 96.74%

Y4 – 96.95%

Y5 – 95.69%

Y6 – 93.11%

Year 4 did particularly well, closely followed by Year 3. We would like to thank everybody for working hard to achieve the whole school target figure of 95% and look forward to an even higher number next half term. V.M. Hunt

### **Dinner Money Invoices**

For those with children in Year 3 - 6, dinner money invoices up to the end of Spring term 2018 have now been issued. Please pay the invoices as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Rock Steady Assembly**

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

### **Open Classrooms**

The next open classrooms event is on Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### **Absences (continued)**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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
Victorian Day Letter – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 4	Email
Curriculum Letter	All	Email
End of Key Stage 1 SATS – Meeting on Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Year 2	Email
Nursery Weekly Newsletter (issued 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018)	Nursery	Email
Parents Evening Letter – Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	All	Email
Year 5 Class Assembly Letter – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 5	Email

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

Next newsletter on Friday 23rd March.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend.

**Miss V.M. Hunt**