



S^t Mary's C of E Primary School
 'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'

Update Friday 7th September 2018
 Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
 Core Christian Value for this half term: Hope
 Learning to learn skill : Independence

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year and a very warm welcome to the two new children who have joined St. Mary's this week, Josephine in Year 3 and Francesca in Year 1, plus the new Reception and Nursery children and their parents. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. Thank you to all the parents who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday for Years 1 to 6. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you.

I would like to second the thanks given by Alan Kemp, our Chair of Governors, in his recent letter. The new toilets, gates, path and refreshed paintwork has involved a huge amount of work over the summer and without the dedication of Mr. Draper and his team, Mr. Burkett and the School Association none of this would have been accomplished. We are extremely fortunate to have such a committed school community who work tirelessly for the good of the children at St. Mary's. Thank you all very much. V. M. Hunt

Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Groves on her engagement during the summer holidays. We wish her and her fiancé Daniel every happiness in the future.

Out of School Achievements

Adam H (Y6) achieved a merit in his Grade 1 guitar exam.

Alana (Y5) has passed her Grade 1 piano exam.

Amelie (Y3) has passed level 3 in the Learn to Swim Scheme.

Elodee (Y5) has received a red karate belt, a Blue Peter Diamond Badge and completed the Library Reading Challenge.

Harry (Y6) achieved a distinction in his Grade 1 guitar exam.

Madeleine B (Y3) has passed level 2 in the Learn to Swim Scheme.

Paige (Y2) has received a red karate belt, a Blue Peter Green Badge and completed the Library Reading Challenge.

Congratulations to you all.

Achievement Data

I am able to give you end of Key Stage data for St. Mary's and some comparisons with National data. However, all data is currently provisional. You will see from the data that St. Mary's pupils have yet again had a very successful year. We will be able to give you more information later in the term.

Early Years Foundation Stage

83% reached a Good Level of Development.

Year 1 Phonics

93% of our children reached the required standard.

Year 2 (Teacher Assessment – 22 children in cohort so each child worth 4.5%)

2018	Working at Expected Standard	Working at Greater Depth
Reading	77%	32%
Writing	82%	18%
Maths	82%	18%

Year 6 (26 children in cohort so each child worth 3.8%)

<u>2018</u>	<u>Working at Expected standard School/National Provisional</u>	
Reading	81%	75%
Writing	85%	76%
Maths	81%	76%
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	81%	78%
RWM Combined	81%	64%

Individual School Photographs - Monday 10th September

Individual and family photos will be taken on Monday 10th September. Family photos are scheduled to start at 8.20 a.m; this is where pre-school children can have a picture taken on their own or with their sibling. Children with a sibling at the school will have a sibling picture taken during school hours. **Please note, school aged pupils must be in class by 8.55 a.m. to ensure lessons start promptly.**

New Electric Gates

The new electric gates will be open at drop off and pick up and also at Nursery pick up at lunch time. If you need to come to the school during the day the gates will be closed; please can you use the intercom and speak to the office to gain entry. Please do not tie up your dog to the new gates – we now have new dog hooks on the wall.

News from Reception

How wonderful to meet the Reception children this week. I am so impressed at how well they have settled in. I am excited about the year ahead and all the new friends I am making. We are going to have lots of fun I think. This week they have learnt how to self-register and choose their own lunches. We have met our buddies and played some games on the playground. Lunchtime can be challenging so it's really important that parents talk to their children about their lunch choices and reinforce that they have dinner ladies, buddies, me and all the adults in Foundation Stage to talk to about lunch. If we know what's causing worries we can address them.

I have started giving out reading books. I will change these books regularly and hear the children read so they need to have these books in their bags at all times. It is so important to share these books every day at home, even if only a page or for a few moments. A love of reading lasts a lifetime and sharing books together is a wonderful opportunity to catch up on the day and how we are feeling. Mrs Bates

Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

On Friday 28th September we are hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning to help raise funds to make sure people with cancer can continue to live life their way. To make a donation, please text JAM EAM5 to 70550 to donate £5. We look forward to seeing you in the school hall at 9am. Donations of cakes (nut free) would be gratefully accepted.

Pre-school Bulletin

Hello, and a very warm welcome to all of our Pre-school families. Whether you're joining us for the first time, or returning after the summer holidays, we hope you all had a lovely break and are revived and ready for the new school term.

This week and next week we shall continue to welcome our Pre-school children, focus on familiarising them with their new environment, and help them to learn the names of their new friends. We shall be doing little 'guided tours' for the children, of the indoor and outdoor area, to enable the children to feel settled and ready to explore.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com should you have any queries.

Have a lovely weekend,

Lisa Burkett and the Pre-school team.

Annual Reminders

In order to get the new academic year off to a good start, here are a few reminders:

Timing of the School Day

Morning arrival at school 8.45a.m. when KS1 and KS2 children are collected from the playground by class teachers. EYFS children may enter directly through EYFS outside area.

Registration 8.55 a.m.

End of school day 3.20 p.m.

Please ensure that your child(ren) arrives punctually in the morning. Children who arrive after 8.55 a.m. should be brought in via the school office and will have their minutes late recorded in the register. Arrivals after 9.30 a.m. without a valid reason (e.g. hospital appointment) will be counted as an absence. If children miss the beginning of a lesson, it will affect the progress they and the rest of their class can make in that lesson.

If for some reason you are unable to collect your child punctually at 3.20 p.m. (e.g. in traffic jam) please contact the school to notify us of the delay before 3.00 p.m. Children will be asked to wait in the school office and parents should come to the main entrance to collect their children.

Who can you speak to if you have any concerns about your child?

If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or progress, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance and a meeting can be arranged via the School Office. If you wish to speak to the Special Educational Needs teacher, Mrs. Stewart, this can also be done via the class teacher or via the School Office.

After speaking to your child's teacher, if you still have concerns, please make an appointment via the School Office to speak to Miss Hunt.

Snacks

A Government initiative entitles all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day, which they eat during the mid-morning break. Junior children may bring in prepared fruit or vegetables (carrot/celery etc) or a healthy cereal bar. Sweets, chewing gum, biscuits, crisps and nuts are not allowed. Please ensure that for children who bring in a packed lunch from home it does not include products containing nuts. We have some severely allergic children in the school who must not come into contact with nuts in any way.

Treats in School

The school does not condone the distribution of sweets on children's birthdays but if parents still wish to bring treats in, please ensure that they do not contain nuts and are suitable for children with other food allergies and dietary requirements. They are to be given out at the end of session/day either by the child or adult collecting. Please do not give them to class teachers to hand out.

Mile a Day

This is taking place every day in all year groups to encourage the children to keep fit and to give them a brain boost to help their learning.

Breakfast and After School Clubs at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45 to 8.45 a.m. and children can attend from 1-5 days per week. Parents arriving after 8.00 a.m. please use the main entrance to the school.

The After School Club runs from 3.20 to 6.00 p.m. Cost details and further information can be obtained from the school office.

Volunteering at St. Mary's

The staff at St. Mary's are very pleased to welcome and engage with voluntary helpers who are keen to work alongside them in school. It is of great value to the children and to the whole school community. It is important that the relevant roles are fully understood from the outset in order to avoid any blurring of roles and to ensure confidentiality for all children. In this regard we request that parent helpers do not volunteer in their own child(ren)'s class - unless it is to accompany them on a school trip.

In support of this, the school ensures that volunteers are appropriately vetted. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in our care; we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you wish to help in school e.g. with 1:1 reading, cooking and school trips, you will be asked to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service, previously the Criminal Records Bureau check). Please contact the School Office in the first instance to offer your services and staff will see if their needs match the offers of

help. Induction will be provided to all volunteers helping in school.

Home School Agreement and Behaviour

All families receive a copy of our Home School Agreement. Parents and children have agreed to the document by coming to school. Please refer to this document to remind yourself of the Golden Rules and e-Safety rules which will be applied by all staff consistently.

We strive to create a happy learning environment and to emphasise caring behaviour at every level. The children are encouraged to care for each other and for the school. It is essential that there is mutual respect towards all members of the School community and that adults are role models to the children with the behaviour that is displayed by all who enter the school building.

To ensure a consistent standard of good behaviour throughout the school here is a reminder of our 'Golden Rules' with an emphasis on positive behaviour for the children:-

Care about each other. We listen and we don't hurt others, including their feelings.

Care about our School and community. We don't waste or damage things.

Always do your best. We don't waste our own or others' time.

Care about yourself. We act honestly and don't cover up the truth.

St. Mary's School Uniform Reminders

The children look very smart on their return to school and the new Year 5 children look very proud to be wearing their ties for the first time. Full uniform details can be found on the school website, but may we please remind you that children with long hair should have it tied back using simple navy or white coloured ties. Also, no makeup, nail varnish or jewellery is to be worn. However, one pair of stud earrings and a watch are allowed. Finally, socks should be grey, navy or white and tights can be either navy or grey. **ALL CLOTHING AND BAGS MUST BE CLEARLY AND PERMANENTLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

Mobile Phones

All children in Years 5 and 6 have been provided with the Mobile Device Usage Policy. This has been devised by children, staff and Governors. If they wish to bring a mobile phone to school they will be agreeing to the terms of this Policy. Mobile phones are not to be used in the school grounds by children.

Road Safety Reminder

As you know, the path outside the school to the top of New Road at the junction with the High Street is extremely narrow. If it is unavoidable for any reason and you have to walk up this path, could you please take extreme care and ensure that you walk as close to the railings by the school as possible. However, at the beginning and end of the school day the gates through the churchyard and the top playground by Year 6 are unlocked. It is possible to safely access the school, the Pelican crossing in the High Street and also the Lollipop lady by taking this route. This avoids having to walk up New Road along the narrow path at all and is a safe route to take before and after school. It might take slightly longer but if it ensures everyone is safe, it is surely worth it. Please encourage your children to take care if they are walking home unaccompanied by an adult.

Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to 12 short questions.

Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school, and to help us know what is going well and what could be improved.

If you do not have a computer or an email address **or** if you would like help to use Parent View, please come into school and ask the school office.

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.

Music Lessons

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

Ofsted Parent View

Parents and carers can give their views of our school at any time of the school year **and** at the time of a school inspection using an online questionnaire called Parent View.

When our school is notified of its next Ofsted inspection, parents will be invited to give their views about the school to inspectors using the Parent View online facility as this has replaced Ofsted's paper questionnaire. Please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact details.

Please register with an email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Reminder that we are a nut free school

Please ensure that no nut products are brought into school.

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

Thank you.

Title	Class	Via
Letter from Alan Kemp – Chair of Governors	All	Email
Game On Letters	All	Email
Ross & Andy Letters	All	Email
Parent Governor Elections	All	Email
Year 4 Trip – St Albans	All	Class Teacher

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

Event	Date & Time
School Photographs	Monday 10 th September
Year 4 Trip – St Albans	Friday 21 st September
MacMillan Coffee Morning	Friday 28 th September

Next newsletter on Friday 21st September.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend. The children deserve a well-earned rest after a very busy first week back at school. V. M. Hunt.

In 2018-19, schools have 5 Staff INSET Days and 1 Occasional Day Holiday on which to close the school. These are all taken during the school terms template issued by Hertfordshire County Council.

Autumn Term 2018

Monday 3 September	Staff INSET (1)
Tuesday 4 September	Pupils return
Friday 26 October	Staff INSET (2)
Mon 29 October – Fri 2 November	Half term break
Monday 5 November	Pupils return
Friday 30 November	Occasional Day
Friday 21 December	End of term (early closure)

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7 January	Staff INSET (3)
Tuesday 8 January	Pupils Return
Mon 18 – Fri 22 February	Half term break
Monday 25 February	Pupils return
Friday 5 April	End of term (early closure)

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23 April	Staff INSET (4)
Wednesday 24 April	Pupils return
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 27 – Fri 31 May	Half term break
Monday 3 June	Pupils return
Tuesday 23 July	End of term (early closure)
Wednesday 24 July	Staff INSET (5)