



**St Mary's C of E Primary School**  
**'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'**

Update Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt  
Core Christian Value for this half term: Hope  
Learning to learn skill : Independence

Dear Parents,

**Out of School Achievements**

Daniel W (Y3) has been awarded Level 2 in the Learn to Swim scheme.

Jessica F (Y2) has been awarded Level 10 in Berkhamsted Gymnastics In House Awards Scheme.

Lottie S (Y2) has been awarded a Blue Peter badge.

Sofia L (Y4) has been awarded a merit in her Primary Tap exam.

Congratulations to you all.

**Special Achievers Certificates**

Reception: Lilly, Luna

Year 1: Ella, Oliver

Year 2: Freddie, Selene

Year 3: Amelie, Daniel

Year 4: Jasper, Lorelie

Year 5: Edward, Lucas

Year 6: Adam W, Poppy

Well done to all these children.

**Cross Country**

Congratulations to all the children who represented the school by competing in the Cross Country running races last week at Ashlyns School.

A big well done to our Year 4 girls' team, who came second overall, and to Callum in Year 6 who won the Year 6 boys' race.

Mr Potter

**Year 6 Trip - Hemel Fire Station**

Year 6 enjoyed an exciting trip to Hemel Fire Station on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The children learnt how to be safe around roads, train tracks and at home. Activities included an evacuation scenario, putting a person in the recovery position and what children should do in an emergency situation.

**Year 2 Trip - St Albans Cathedral**

On Monday 8th October, Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral to enhance our learning of our 'Signs and Symbols' topic in RE. We started off the day by creating our own stained glass windows which are now brightening up our classroom and look stunning. We then had a tour of the Cathedral, looking out for signs and symbols; we spotted many! We also re-enacted important Christian ceremonies and stories, such as Baptism and Easter. Some children even got to try on costumes!

I was extremely proud of the children, as they were complimented on their mature and sensible behaviour as well as impressive knowledge by several different people throughout the day. Well done for being fabulous ambassadors for St Mary's Year 2.

Mrs Zimet

**Year 4 Dentist Visit**

Last week, Year 4 had a visit from dentist Gerry Van Deventer. This was to tie in with their science topic of teeth and the digestive system. They had a fabulous time learning about how to keep their teeth healthy and used disclosing tablets to see where they could improve their brushing technique.

A huge thank you to Gerry for giving so generously of his time and making the experience such good fun.

Ms Forsyth

**The Bishop's Harvest Appeal**

We would like to say a huge 'Thank You!' to everyone who donated towards the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. We raised a fantastic £205.33! This will go such a long way to supporting farmers in growing the pigeon pea. £10 buys a 5kg bag of seeds, enough to plant an acre of pigeon pea plants. £50 buys enough seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and farming tools for a family to make a healthy profit from their crop!

If you haven't been able to donate yet, it's not too late. You can still donate at [www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishop-s-annual-harvest-appeal/](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishop-s-annual-harvest-appeal/)

Thank you,  
Miss Groves and The Collective Worship Team

### **Parent Forum**

We have our next Parent Forum meeting on Friday 9th November. If you have anything that you would like to raise for discussion, please contact your Parent Forum Rep by Wednesday 24th October.

The parent reps are:

Karol Freeman and Joanne Loch (Reception)  
Sarah Jones (Year 1)  
Tracy Webster (Year 2)  
Julie Allen and Tracey Davis (Year 3)  
Sarah Jones (Year 4)  
Louise Cooley (Year 5)  
Su Bennett (Year 6)

### **School Meals – New Menus**

The new school meal menus were sent home last week and come into effect after half term.

Please spend some time going through the menu with your children as this will help them when they come to make their choices each day with their class teacher. Please note that the school has decided not to offer egg roll as an option. This will be substituted with cheese roll.

If your child wishes to change their current meal pattern after half term, ie to or from school dinners, please let the office know on Thursday 25th October. May we remind you that there is a required one week notice period.

### **Visit From Sue Hampton**

The author Sue Hampton will be joining us on Thursday November 15th, and signing her books after school. Her writing has been praised by many other authors, including the great Michael Morpurgo, whose stories she used to share with her classes when she taught for eleven years at St Mary's. With 32 titles across genres for children, teenagers and adults, she has something for everyone.

See <https://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk/> for more details.

### **Secondary School 2019**

Applications for secondary school places opened on 1 September for all our year 6 children.

We have sent home a 'Moving On 2019' leaflet to support you with your application. You will be able to apply on-line by visiting [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions). Please note that the **closing date for applications is 31 October**.

### **Voluntary contributions**

St. Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their funding costs from central government via the local authority. In contrast to other types of maintained schools, only 90% of the capital costs of a VA school are met by the state. The foundation (in our case the Governing Body), has to contribute the remaining 10% of the capital costs. Parents are often invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

We would like to invite parents to make a **voluntary contribution of £5 per family, each term**, towards the school capital maintenance fund. The maintenance contribution will be used for the upkeep of the school premises. We will report to parents at the end of the year on how the money donated has been spent.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution starting this term, please could you send this to the office by cheque made payable to St Mary's School Governors or via the School Gateway.

Payments can be made each term or one payment for the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Safety**

We are currently having problems with parents parking on the zig zag lines outside the school at drop off and pick up times. This substantially increases the risk to children entering and leaving the school. This is to let everyone know that the Constabulary have asked us to take photographs of offending vehicles and to forward them on. Please be aware that the Chair of Governors will be taking such photographs from now on.

We also ask that parents and children use only the small pedestrian electric gate and do not come through the vehicle gate.

### **Berkhamsted Fireworks**

Advance tickets are available from the School Office for the Berkhamsted Fireworks evening on November 3rd. The cost of tickets are £7 adults, £5 children and £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and max 2 children).

### **News from Reception**

We have had a great week exploring the numeracy area and graphics area of our classroom. The children now know exactly which resources we have and how to use them. We have stressed how important it is to look after the resources and tidy them away after we have used them.

We have also listened to the story of Pumpkin Soup and Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater. We have painted pumpkins and drawn them using graphite pencils. Some of us have hammered golf tees into the pumpkin and next week we hope to smash the pumpkin! If possible we will then look at making our own soup.

Some children have shown an interest in 'tinkering' with the broken laptops; I have some hammers but could really do with a variety of screwdrivers so we can really take apart this machine and explore its mechanics.

The family photo display board is looking great so please keep those photos coming.

Mrs Bates

### **Pre-school Bulletin 19/10/18**

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed our small group activities with our friends. We have used puzzles and construction games to encourage turn taking and language interaction within the group.

Next week will be our music and movement week. We shall be exploring our range of musical instruments as well as pots and pans with the wooden spoons! We shall be learning about how sounds can be changed, and using vocabulary to describe what they hear.

We shall encourage them to join in with dancing and movements in response to music, and as they dance we shall be looking to see if they can begin to move rhythmically.

To enquire about a place at Pre-school please email us on [stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com)

### **School Council News**

School Council are pleased to report that we sold enough snacks in the Tuck shop to be able to purchase more. We will be offering Kellogg's breakfast bars at our next tuck shop which is to be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at break time as before.

Don't forget the Dance a thon will be happening next Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October. Children can come in to school wearing non-school uniform including trainers. Collection boxes are in all the classes and donations to the NSPCC can be left in the office.

Mrs Bates and School Council

### **Music Lessons**

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

### **Reminder that we are a nut free school**

Please ensure that no nut and sesame seed products are brought into school.

### **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 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)

Thank you.

Title	Class	Via
E-Safety Autumn 2018 Newsletter	All	Email
School Choir Permission Slip	Y4 – 6	Email
Year 5 Tag Rugby Festival	Y5	Email
NSPCC Dance-A-Thon	All	Email
Nursery newsletter 12/10/2018	N	Email
Year 5 National Space Centre Trip	5	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Parent Consultations 5pm – 8pm	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
Parent Consultations 3.30pm -6.30pm	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 5 Tag Rugby Festival – 12.30pm	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
NSPCC Dance-A-Thon (Non-uniform day)	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Inset Day</b>	<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>
Back to school	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Remembrance Service in Church – 9.30pm	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
Parent Forum – 2pm	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
National Anti Bullying week	Week commencing 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 6 Treat Friday	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
Prospective Reception Parent Tour	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November – 11am
Children in Need Day	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 5 National Space Centre Trip	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents' Maths Evening	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November – 6.30pm
Christmas Decoration Day	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
Christmas Fair	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
Y5 & Y6 Cycle Training	Week commencing 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Prospective Reception Parent Tour– 11am	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Occasional Day</b>	<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>

Next newsletter on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing weekend. V. M. Hunt.

### Term Date Academic Year 2018-19

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)