



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

Update Friday 5th October 2018
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Hope
Learning to learn skill : Independence

Dear Parents,

Year 6 Roles of Responsibility

The following Y6 children have been chosen to be Sports Ambassadors for the forthcoming year :-

Amy M, Callum, Luke and Poppy.

They will lead sports activities within the school and take responsibility for raising the profile of sports amongst the younger children.

The following Y6 children have been chosen to be Play Leaders for the forthcoming year :-

Abigail, Adam H, Amy H, Amy M, Charlotte, Eve, Flinty, Jack, Joe, Mabel, Poppy, Soraya and Zara.

Congratulations to these children for being selected for these roles.

Mr Potter

Out of School Achievements

George (Y2) has achieved a 10m swimming badge.

Harry (Y6) has successfully auditioned to be John in the Christmas Pantomime, Peter Pan, at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

Lorelie (Y4) has received a Blue Peter 'Diamond badge'.

Congratulations to you all.

Year 3 Trip – Berkhamsted Castle

On Friday 28th September Year 3 went on a class trip to Berkhamsted Castle. We have been learning about our local area in Geography and we were excited to know more about the castle and its importance to Berkhamsted. We enjoyed learning about what life may have been like for the inhabitants of the mott and bailey castle and even got to see how they kept their food warm. We walked up to the top of the mott so we could see out across the bailey and we even saw a skull that had been built into the castle wall! We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the volunteers at Berkhamsted Castle for taking the time to teach us more about our local history, and also to Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Tropea and Mrs Ralphs for helping us on our trip! Miss Groves

Year 4 Trip - Roman Festival at St Albans Cathedral

On Friday 21st September, Year 4 took part in a Roman Festival at St Albans Cathedral. On arrival the children were greeted by a Roman soldier who told them that he had walked 20 miles to get there! After this they met a Roman lady who allowed a few of them to recline on her sofas. All the children then made some tasty Roman style snacks.

This was followed by the story of Alban which the children acted out. The final session was a 'dig' to discover Roman artefacts.

It was an enjoyable day and greatly enhanced the children's learning about the Romans.

Many thanks to the parents who came to help, Mrs Evans and Mrs Turnham.

Mrs Christie

Year 5 Trip - Harvest Festival Service at St Albans Cathedral

On Tuesday 2nd October, Year 5 attended the Harvest Festival Service at St Albans Cathedral. The service was focused on the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, "Give Peas a Chance", which aims to improve conditions for farmers in Malawi who have been affected by rising global temperatures and sustained drought. The children enjoyed the service and were very well behaved throughout. You can find out more about the appeal by visiting <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishop-s-annual-harvest-appeal/>

Mr Potter

Harvest Service in St. Mary's Church

It was lovely to see so many families and friends in our first church service of the new school year. Thank you all for joining us. Very well done to the Reception and Nursery children for their impeccable behaviour during their first St. Mary's School church service. The children in Reception to Year 6 all made presentations to mark National Poetry Day which was on Thursday. Year 6 wrote and read some beautiful and thoughtful prayers. Thank you to Jonathan for leading the service and to Miss Groves for organising it.

National Poetry Day

I wanted to say a big 'thank you' to all of the parents for making a huge effort with the National Poetry day homework. The children have created some wonderful work which is decorating our corridor beautifully. Please come and have a look at the display during open classroom on Monday 15th October.

Mrs Zimet

St. Mary's School Association

AGM

A reminder that the AGM is taking place on Wednesday 17th October. Existing and new parents are invited to consider joining the team to raise important funds for our school. The School Association consists of a very enthusiastic and hardworking group of parents, constantly striving to come up with new, as well as maintain popular fundraising ideas. Successful fundraising events have enabled the school to install electric gates and purchase a school stage. The existing Committee, Miss Hunt and Mr Kemp look forward to seeing you at this meeting. Remember that all parents are automatically members of the School Association.

News from Reception

We have had a wonderful week in Reception which culminated with a delightful Harvest Service.

I am so proud of the children and how beautifully behaved they were. This week we looked at the story of Creation and then decided to explore the stunning environment right on our doorstep. We hunted for blackberries and marvelled at the nature around us. When we returned, we made art with the things we found and some of us wrote a prayer to offer thanks for our fantastic world.

We have also continued our work on shapes which we used to make our own Pete the Cat pictures. We worked on our pencil grip and demonstrated our skills at writing our names.

I would like to complete our Family display, so could families please send in a photograph or picture. If you don't have one, then your child could draw a picture instead. This display stays up all year and so the photograph may become worn or damaged.

Mrs Bates

Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you to everyone who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday. Further thanks to those who made delicious cakes which helped make the event a huge success. To make a donation, please text JAM EAM5 to 70550 to donate £5. We will advise the total amount raised soon.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will be on 22nd and 24th October.

Please visit:

<https://stmarysberkhamsted.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> for the online booking system. It will open on Saturday 6th October at 5.00pm.

School Council News

School Council are excited to announce that Tuck Shop is returning and will be available on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th October at break time. School Council Executive Committee will be manning the stall. School Council are really keen to continue the Tuck shop. We are not quite making money in this venture yet and if we wish to continue we will need to sell our existing stock in order to purchase any more stock. If you think you could help us in any way with this venture please contact me.

School Council have also requested that a comment could be made in the newsletter about the lining up in the playground in the morning. The children are finding it difficult to get up the steps as so many parents are congregated here. Parents are asked to be on the bottom playground. School council have said, "We can't see the line". Some have commented, "We can't get through." We suggested that all children should say their final goodbyes in the bottom playground and they should then line up with their class. Children should carry their own things to the line. Parents can still watch their children going in to school but please stand well back from the class lines as it has been unsettling for some children to see others lining up with their parents. Any parents wishing to speak to staff should make an appointment or use the link book.

Don't forget the Dance-a-thon will be happening on 25th October. Collection boxes are in all classes and donations to the NSPCC can be left in the office.

Mrs Bates and School Council

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. Please note that the closing date for applications is **31 October**.

Pre-school Bulletin 5/10/18

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed making our clay hedgehogs, we have used twigs for the prickles and we shall paint the hedgehogs once the clay is dry. To continue with our hibernation and autumn theme we have also used stampers in the paint to create hedgehog pictures for our display board.

We have used small group times to use the unifix blocks to create patterns.

Next week we shall continue with our autumn theme, but we shall be talking to the children about the differences between summer and autumn. This will include conversations about changes in the environment such as the leaves changing colour and the weather being a little colder, and we shall also be asking the children to think about what clothes they needed to wear during the warmer summer time, and what they need to wear to keep warm in the autumn time. This all forms part of their Physical Development as well as their Knowledge and Understanding of the World development.

To enquire about a place at Pre-school please email us on stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

Have a lovely weekend,

Lisa Burkett and the Pre-school Team

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 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

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
Nursery newsletter – 21 st September, 28 th September, 5 th October	N	Email
Year 2 Visit to St Albans – Monday 8 th October	2	Email
Year 6 Visit to Hemel Hempstead Fire Station	6	Email
Recorder Club	4, 5 & 6	Email
Concerns about Fortnite	All	Email
Parent Consultation Letter & Online booking information	All	Email
02 Letter	Y5 & Y6 Choir Only	Paper Copy
Carrie Photography Flyer	All	Email
Forest Club	2 - 6	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Y2 Trip to St. Albans Cathedral	Monday 8 th October
NSPCC Workshops Y5 & Y6	Wednesday 10 th October
Reception to Y5 nasal flu spray	Thursday 11 th October
Carrie Family Photos	Sunday October 14th
Science week	Monday 15 th October
Open Classrooms 3.20pm – 3.40pm	Monday 15 th October
School Association AGM 7pm	Wednesday 17 th October
Parent Consultations 5pm – 8pm	Monday 22 nd October
Parent Consultations 3.30pm -6.30pm	Wednesday 24 th October
Inset Day	Friday 26 th October
Half Term	Monday 29 th October – Friday 2 nd November

Next newsletter on Friday 19th October

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)