



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

Update Friday 23rd November 2018
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Friendship
Learning to learn skill : Collaboration

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Amelie S (Y5) starred in her first ever performance with Gobstoppers Drama Group. Amelie played a lost boy in the production of Peter Pan.

Amelie V D (Y3) has been awarded a distinction in the IDTA Tap Preparatory Grade exam.

Callum P (Y6) won the UK Athletics Cross Country Challenge in Milton Keynes.

Edie T (Y5) has passed her Learn To Swim Stage 4 badge.

Emily B (Y1) has achieved Emerald level at Sapphire Gymnastics Club.

Farida H P (Y3) has passed Level 2 Learn to Swim badge. Farida has also been awarded a highly commended mark in the IDTA Introductory Music Theatre Exam.

Isadora G (Y1) has been awarded a Rosette Award for ballet.

Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Moss, Sophia

Year 1: Ayla, Leo, Polly, Samuel

Year 2: Billy, Freya, Hayley, Madeline

Year 3: Harry, Lexie, Milo, Oliver

Year 4: Isabella, Joseph, Ruby, Sofia

Year 5: Alana, Emily, Joshua, Ruby

Year 6: Amy, Charlie Dormer, Joe, Thomas

Well done to all these children

District Cross Country

Congratulations to all the children who represented the school brilliantly by competing in the District Cross Country running at Adeyfield School on the 8th of November. A big well done in particular to Callum in Year 6 who won his event!

Mr Potter

National Space Centre Trip

On Tuesday, Year 5 visited the National Space Centre in Leicester. It was a long day with a very early start, but the children enjoyed the opportunities to explore the galleries, climb up the rocket tower, watch an immersive 3D show in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium and programme Mars Rovers in the NXT Workshop. We hope they learned a lot from the experience!

Mr Potter

Science of Sound Workshop

This week Year 6 and Year 4 had a visit from Will Embliss – musician and scientist! Will presented both classes with a science of sound workshop featuring hand-made instruments and making the understanding of how sound is made and travels immediate and accessible.

School Council News

We would like to say a massive thanks for everyone's support with Children in Need. Tuck shop will be happening on Wednesday 5th December at break time and Thursday 6th December. We are no longer hosting our table top sale at the Christmas Fayre and will now have it on Friday 14th December. The School Association have very kindly agreed for us to share a table with them during the treat Friday cake sale. This is very kind of them as I will not be present as it's a Friday. We now need your donations! We are asking for good quality toys, books and games that the children no longer want. The School Council wish for the money raised to go to the People Without Borders charity.

Many thanks.

Mrs Bates and School Council

Maths Evening – New Date

We will now be holding the maths evening on Wednesday 16th January, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Please save the date. Apologies to the parents who had planned to come to the maths evening this week. We hope the new date will be more convenient for everyone.

Thanks, Mr Potter

Ashlyns Admission Arrangements Consultation

The Governors of Ashlyns are consulting on a change to our Admission Arrangements from September 2020. More information can be found on the school website:

<https://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/school-life/admissions/>

News from Reception

So it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Reception! Our role play area has been transformed into a Christmas Grotto and the children have really enjoyed writing on the recycled cards and wrapping up boxes with the wrapping paper. We will soon be getting the post box out and then the children can start writing their lists to Santa! We have been learning to count on this week and have used our new wooden log resource to do this. Last week we read the story of the Good Samaritan for our work on 'Cool to be Kind' week. The children have been having lots of fun re-enacting this. Nativity rehearsals are in full swing and the children are already singing the songs at every opportunity. Many are beginning to learn their lines too. Lines will be sent home ASAP. Your child will be coming home with their costume over the following week. Please can you wash and iron these costumes and alter them where necessary. Feel free to embellish the costume as befitting to the part. Our costumes are very old now and if you think you would like your child to wear a new costume please feel free to provide your own.

Mrs Bates

Christmas Post Box

The post box will be ready for use on Monday 3rd December. Children are invited to post their cards at a convenient time when in school (not in lesson time). Year 6 children will deliver them each lunchtime. Please ensure that the envelopes are clearly labelled with the full name of the child and class for whom they are intended, and that the card includes the name of the child who wrote it. Nursery and Reception children should give their cards to EYFS staff who will organise suitable times for delivery. Please do not come to the front office before school to post cards.

Reminder that we are a nut free school

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

Visit from Sue Hampton

On Thursday 15th November, author Sue Hampton came in to talk to the children about her experiences of having Alopecia and consequently losing her hair. She delivered a really uplifting message to the children about how it is okay to be different. This was especially poignant as it coincided with 'Cool to be Kind' week and the children were already learning about how to treat everybody with kindness and respect.

Shoe Boxes

Thank you so much to everybody who donated a shoe box to the Samaritan's Purse appeal. Miss Groves took the shoe boxes, which filled the boot of her car, to the drop off point last Friday night and they were so pleased with the amount of boxes the school was donating. We donated an impressive 23 shoe boxes. Thank you again for your continued support.

The Collective Worship Team.

September 2019 Reception

If you have a sibling of a current St Mary's pupil who is due to join our Reception cohort next September, please do complete our Supplementary Information Form under the admissions tab on the school website, or collect one from the office. This will ensure that your sibling is considered under Criteria 4 of our Admissions Policy 2019.

Applications for Reception places next September must be made before 15 January 2019.

Music Lessons

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

Snow Closure System – please register now

Parents must register with [Hertfordshire's School Closure Notification System](#). Once registered, the system will advise of any school emergency closure.

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.

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.

Title	Class	Via
Nursery newsletter – 9/11/2018, 16/11/2018	N	Email
Curriculum Letters	Nursery & Reception	Email
Christmas Lunch Letter	R – Y6	Email
Updated school calendar	All	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Christmas School Fayre	Saturday 24 th November
Y5 & Y6 Cycle Training	Week commencing 26 th November
Prospective Reception Parent Tour– 11am	Wednesday 28 th November
Occasional Day	Friday 30 th November
School Pantomime	Thursday 6 th December
Rocksteady Music Concert	Friday 7 th December – 2.30pm
Foundation Stage Christmas play	Tuesday 11 th December – 9.30 am
Open Classrooms	Tuesday 11 th December
Key Stage 1 Christmas play	Wednesday 12 th December – 9.30am
Key Stage 1 Christmas play	Thursday 13 th December – 5.30pm
Foundation Stage Treat Friday	Friday 14 th December
Year 3 & 4 Church Carol Service	Thursday 18 th December – 6.30pm
Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 19 th December
End of term – finish at 1.30pm	Friday 21 st December

Next newsletter on Friday 7th December

Tomorrow is the Christmas fayre 11am to 2pm. I look forward to seeing you there. Have a lovely 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)