



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

Update Friday 21st December 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

Devon (Y2) has been awarded a Ross & Andy trophy for Player of the Term.

Ellie-Mae (Y1) has passed Level 8 & Level 7 Gymnastics Awards.

Evan (R) has achieved the Puffin Award of the ASA Rainbow Swimming Award Scheme.

Freya (Y2) has been awarded Level 5 swimming certificate with Dolphin Swim School.

Elodee (Y5) has passed red belt in Traditional Shotokan Karate.

Hayley (Y2) has been awarded The Maggie West Shield for being Fundraiser of the Year for Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club. Hayley raised £375 for her club.

Isabelle (Y4) has passed her 20M swimming badge.

Isadora (Y1) has passed her 10M swimming badge.

Jonathan (Y1) has passed STANley 6 in the First Steps Swimming Series.

Lottie (Y2) has been awarded a medal for working hard in the Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club competition.

Maya (Y4) ran 2.5 miles in the Santa Dash in Hemel Hempstead for The Hospice of St Francis.

Paige (Y2) has passed red belt in Traditional Shotokan Karate.

Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Buddy, Isabelle

Year 1: All of Year 1

Year 2: All of Year 2

Year 3: Farida, Lucy

Year 4: Amara, Maya

Year 5: Mollie, Teddy

Year 6: Holly, Luca

Well done to all these children

Carol Service

The Year 3 and Year 4 children performed brilliantly at the Carol Service on Tuesday night. Thank you to Mrs Christie and Miss Groves for all their hard work and thank you to all the friends and families who came to the service. It was a lovely evening.

Christingle Service

Thank you to parents for sending in oranges. The children decorated them beautifully, ready for the Christingle Service this morning in the school hall. This was a lovely way on which to end the term. Thank you to Jonathan for leading the service and to Miss Groves and Year 6 for organising it.

School Association

Thank you to the School Association for organising and paying for the Pantomime 'Alice in Wonderland' which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Also thank you for providing the crackers for the Christmas Lunch on Wednesday. The children really enjoyed the school disco and secret room events so again a huge thank you to the School Association for all their hard work and commitment.

Maths Evening – postponed until 16th January

We will now be holding the maths evening on Wednesday 16th January, from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Please save the date.

Thanks, Mr Potter

New Church Roof

Work on the new church roof will commence on January 2nd. The scaffolders will have a truck parked on the edge of the playground at the start of the term. Please take extra care when walking to school through the churchyard.

News from Reception

I promised you an exciting half term and it certainly proved to be just that! The children have all worked so hard producing wonderful calendars and cards. The cards were really special because for the first time in Reception history we didn't tell the children how to make the card. We made a few different examples of cards and then left a variety of materials. The children had been drawing reindeers beforehand so the only instruction was that it should be a reindeer. I am so impressed with their cards. I am really impressed with the writing inside too. The children seem exhausted now and the various illnesses have finally hit us all. It is really important to rest over this holiday. I have given you the homework but please don't see this as a chore it is supposed to be useful and engaging and only do as much as your child wants to. Some children love having a project and they can add pictures and writing. Some children will just want to talk about it and that's ok.

Please continue to add to the Tapestry especially over the holidays. It's so lovely to see the family traditions and celebrations and will help us for our discussions after Christmas.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Mrs Bates

Pre-school bulletin 21/12/18

A very big thank you to all the parents and families who came along to our Christmas open afternoon last Friday. We thoroughly enjoyed performing our medley of Christmas songs for everyone, and even did a little encore!

The Christmas craft activities were very popular, particularly the reindeer dust and the gingerbread men, and it was a pleasure to see all the smiley faces.

If you would like any information about Pre-school, please speak to Lisa Burkett at the end of the school day, or email us at stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.

School Council News

Well done to the School Council for managing the table top sale last week. We had so many wonderful donations which meant we had a great stall. It is really fabulous that so many parents supported the idea of this sale and hopefully got some bargains too. Many thanks to the School Association who gave us space and helped to run the event. We managed to raise a whopping £52.12 for the charity! This is amazing and not only that, we can also give the remaining items to a local charity shop. It is especially nice that at this time of year we can help those less fortunate. We have such a generous caring community here at St Marys and I feel very privileged to be part of it.

Merry Christmas

Mrs Bates and School Council

Autumn Term R.E. Update

There have been some big changes this academic year in the teaching and learning of R.E. Mrs Archbold handed the teaching of R.E. back to the teachers and we've had such positive feedback. We're still using the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for the teaching of R.E. and we are starting to introduce opportunities for the children to ask and answer Big, Ultimate Questions.

There is a new framework that has been introduced by the Diocese for the inspection of Church of England Schools. Along with Miss Hunt and the Ethos Committee, I have been working on gathering evidence of all of the wonderful work the teachers and children are creating in R.E. You may have noticed some of their Remembrance Day work on display in the Church. Keep an eye out for some lovely work from Year 3 and Year 6 on Epiphany in church.

The staff are currently working hard on planning some exciting activities for R.E. week in the new year! Watch this space for more information.

Wishing you all a peaceful, restful Christmas break,
Miss Groves

Reminder that we are a nut free school

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

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.

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 – 07/12/2018 & 14/12/2018	N	Email
Yoga Club Letter	Y1 – Y3	Email
Christmas Disco	N – Y6	Paper copy via book bag
Rocksteady – Spring term letter	Y1 – Y6	Email
Swimming Lessons	Y3 & Y4	Email
Forest School Club	Y1 – Y6	Email
Game On Football Club (Lunch time)	Y3 & Y4	Email
Game On Netball Club	Y4 – Y6	Email
Game On Football Club	Y5 & Y6	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Start of Spring Term – Children Return to School	Tuesday 8 th January
Prospective Nursery & Reception parent tour	Thursday 10 th January 11am
Maths Evening	Wednesday 16 th January 6.30pm
Cheerleading Club Assembly	Friday 18 th January 9.15am
RE Week	Week commencing 21 st January
Prospective Nursery parent tour	Tuesday 29 th January 11am
O2 concert for choir in Y5 & Y6	Thursday 31 st January

Next newsletter on Friday 11th January

Happy Christmas – “God bless us, every one!”

It now just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year as I reach the end of my fourth year as Head at St. Mary's. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank everyone so much for your kind words of support, cards and gifts. It has been an extremely busy term concluding with all our lovely Nativities, Carol and Christingle Services. Everyone deserves a really good rest, not least all the amazing staff at St. Mary's who work so hard. St. Mary's is a fantastic school and I am proud to be its Head.

Miss V.M. Hunt

Term Date Academic Year 2018-19

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7 January

Tuesday 8 January

Mon 18 – Fri 22 February

Monday 25 February

Friday 5 April

Staff INSET (3)

Pupils Return

Half term break

Pupils return

End of term (early closure)

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23 April

Wednesday 24 April

Monday 6 May

Monday 27 – Fri 31 May

Monday 3 June

Tuesday 23 July

Wednesday 24 July

Staff INSET (4)

Pupils return

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Half term break

Pupils return

End of term (early closure)

Staff INSET (5)