



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

Update Friday 25th January 2019
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Endurance
Learning to learn skill : Curiosity

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Callum (Y6) has won the Dacorum District Schools Boys Cross Country Competition 2018.

Cian (Y2) has passed his 10m backstroke swimming badge.

Madeline (Y2) has passed Stage 3 Learn to Swim award.

Rosie (R) has passed Level 9 gymnastics badge.

Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: Daisy, Lamorna

Year 1: Francesca, Izzy

Year 2: Cian, Paige

Year 3: Esme, Tyler

Year 4: Charlie, Scarlett

Year 5: Edie, Riad

Year 6: Charlie & Charlie

Well done to all these children

Wendover Cross Country

A big "well done" to all the children who represented the school at the Wendover Cross Country run on Saturday. Special mention goes to Callum Powell who won his race, and Mollie Rees who came fifth.

Mr Potter

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Potter for passing his National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). This is huge achievement after 18 months of hard work.

School Association

Volunteers who went out on the Santa Sleigh (organised by the Berkhamsted Rotary Club) on 1st December collected £520 for the School Association. A huge thank you to the parent volunteers for giving up their time.

Maths Evening

Thanks to all the parents who attended our maths evening last Wednesday and helped to make the event such a success. We hope you will feel better able to support your children's learning at home as a result.

Mr Potter

Attendance Statistics

The attendance statistics for the academic year to date is as follows :

Nursery : 92.49%

Reception : 96.17%

Year 1 : 96.79%

Year 2 : 98.18%

Year 3 : 96.28%

Year 4 : 97.43%

Year 5 : 98.01%

Year 6 : 94.89%

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance statistics.

Year 4 Trip

Yesterday Year 4 visited Bhaktivedanta Manor, a Hindu temple near Watford. During their visit the children learnt more about the Hindu faith. They also went on a bullock cart ride and fed the cows. All the children had the opportunity to dress up and to have traditional face paint. They then visited the shrine to find out more about Hindu worship. After visiting the shrine the children enjoyed a vegetarian lunch before returning to school. The children behaved beautifully, they were respectful and courteous at all times. Well done Year 4.

Mrs Christie

Year 6 Visit to Jazz Concert

Our Year 6 children attended a jazz concert on Wednesday afternoon at Thomas Coram School. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to be able to watch professional musicians. The children had a fantastic time.

Playground Safety

Children are playing with school equipment and footballs on the playground before and after school. Children are not allowed to play with school equipment, or their own, after school on the playground as we have lots of younger children and parents with pushchairs who could get hit. Please ask your children not to play football etc. on the playground before and after school.

Miss Groves

School Council News

The Tuck Shop will be taking place on Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th next week. We are beginning to have funds now so soon will have a more varied stock and eventually these funds will support purchasing playground equipment. We will be offering the breakfast bars. Please remember the packaging states 'may contain nuts' but the ingredients do not list nuts. Please see me if you have any further concerns regarding these snacks. School Council would like to say a massive thank you to Flinty for making the beautiful sashes we are all very grateful.

Mrs Bates and School Council

RE Week

This week the whole school has been busy learning about different cultures and faiths for R.E. week. Years 2 - 6 had a visit from Mrs Patel who taught us all about Hinduism and life in India. Year 3 created some Rangoli patterns which Hindus make during the festival of Diwali. Revd Jonathon came in to do a prayer workshop with years 3 - 5. He taught us how to write prayers from the heart, to take time and reflect on what's important to us. On Wednesday we had a visit from Mr Haq who did an assembly on Islam and what life is like for a Muslim. Year 2 visited Northchurch Baptist Church and Year 4 visited Bhaktivedanta Manor. Year 4 continued their learning of the Five Pillars of Islam by creating their own pillars. Year 5 have completed some artwork on their Big Question 'What does Heaven look like for you?'

I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to Mrs Patel, Mr Haq and Revd Jonathon for taking the time to come and work with the children this week. It's been an invaluable experience for them.

Miss Groves and The Collective Worship Team

Snow Procedures

Now it is colder we must remind you of the procedures for possible closure due to bad weather. We will do all we can to prevent the school closing during extremes of weather. However, if it is necessary to close, information will be published on the school website as soon as a decision is made. We will let all parents know, no later than 7am. If it is not on the website by 7am then you can be assured we are open.

Parents should also sign up to the Everbridge system. This system is linked to Herts County Council and will enable you to receive school emergency closure notifications for Hertfordshire schools. To register, click on the following link [Hertfordshire's School Closure Notification System](#). Once registered, the system will advise of any school emergency closure.

News from Reception

I am so impressed with the children this week. They have shown wonderful behaviour during the visitor talk and when exploring the church. We have participated in the whole school RE week and have enjoyed discussing different beliefs such as Muslim and Hindu. We have compared our New Year celebrations to the upcoming Chinese New Year. We are going to have our own Chinese New Year celebration day with Nursery next Thursday 31st January and we will taste some food and discover some Chinese items. We are also listening to a Chinese song and will be performing this in our Assembly! We had many discussions about where we think Heaven is this week and we shared these ideas in the school assembly. We also read 'Jonah and the Whale' and many of us drew whales and made whales. We also made model houses this week; some of us even added swimming pools!

Mrs Bates

Open Classrooms

The next open classrooms event is on Wednesday 6th February, at 3.20pm for Reception to Year 6 parents. Parents are invited to come in and look at children's books.

Nursery parents are welcome to come in and look at children's work first thing in the morning at drop off.

Church Roofing Works

Miss Hunt has met with the Church Council regarding the church roof works and it was agreed that the scaffolding has taken much longer than expected and the contractors' behaviour on site has caused problems for the school, not least in terms of damage to property and continued presence of lorries on the playground. The scaffolding contractors have now finished putting up the scaffolding. Removal of the scaffolding will take less time and will be targeted to take place during the school's Easter Holiday to cause the least disruption to the school. This appears achievable in the current timeline for the works, unless major problems are found with the structure of the church roof. Damage to property including grass, bricks and oil stains will be repaired.

Work by JTC roofing will commence on Monday 28th January and will last approximately 8-9 weeks. Much smaller vans will be used which will fit through the gates next to the piggeries and not on the playground. The proposal would be to park the vans there before school starts and leave after school finishes. If larger deliveries are needed, these will be done at the weekend. Advance notice to be given to the church and the school on timing. No skips will be required as rubbish will be taken away in small rubble sacks on a van. February half term will be used as a slot for larger loads if needed, although this is not anticipated. The church will communicate with workmen to reinforce that there is to be no bad language or smoking in front of children.

Parent Forum

We have our next Parent Forum meeting on Friday 8th March. If you have anything that you would like to raise for discussion, please contact your Parent Forum Rep by Friday 8th February.

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)

Reminder that we are a nut free school

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

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
Wendover Cross Country Run Event	3-6	Email
Term Dates – Academic Year 2019-20	All	Email
Dance Workshop	R/1/2	Email
Feeling Good Week Letter	All	Email
Reception Online Health Assessment	R	Email
Final 02 Letter / DVD order form	5 & 6	Paper Copy
Nursery Newsletter 18/1/2019 & 25/1/2019	N	Email
Dacorum Music School – String Day & Courses	1 - 6	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Prospective Nursery parent tour	Tuesday 29 th January 9.30am
O2 concert for choir in Y5 & Y6	Thursday 31 st January
Dance Workshop – R/1/2	Thursday 31 st January with parents performance at 3.05pm
Year 2 Treat Friday	Friday 1 st February
Open Classrooms	Wednesday 6 th February 3.20-3.45pm
Reception class assembly to parents	Thursday 7 th February 9.10am
Happy Puzzle Company Workshops R – Y6	Tuesday 12 th February
Year 5 class assembly to parents	Thursday 14 th February 9.10am
Half Term	Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February

Next newsletter on Friday 8th February

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

Term Dates Academic Year 2018-19

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)

Term Dates Academic Year 2019-20

Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2 September	Staff INSET (1)
Tuesday 3 September	Pupils return
Friday 25 October	Staff INSET (2)
Mon 28 October to Friday 1 November	Half term break
Monday 4 November	Pupils return
Friday 20 December	End of term (early closure)

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January	Staff INSET (3)
Tuesday 7 January	Pupils Return
Mon 17 – Fri 21 February	Half term break
Monday 24 February	Pupils return
Friday 3 April	End of term (early closure)

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20 April	Staff INSET (4)
Tuesday 21 April	Pupils return
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 25 – Fri 29 May	Half term break
Monday 1 June	Pupils return
Friday 17 July	End of term (early closure)
Monday 20 July	Staff INSET (5)
Tuesday 21 July	Occasional Day