



## ANNUAL REPORT FROM ST MARY'S SCHOOL FOR ST MARY'S PCC – March 2018

The past year at St. Mary's has continued to flourish with a record number of 151 families choosing to send their children to school here.

We were delighted that 90% of children leaving the Reception class achieved a good level of development, compared to 74% last year. This was significantly higher than the National exit data of 71%.

The Year 1 children again undertook the statutory phonics screening check in June. This assesses the children's ability to decode words using only their phonic knowledge and this year 83% of the children achieved the qualifying mark. The National rate was 81%.

We are also pleased with our continuing high attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2). The children achieved 87% in Reading and Mathematics and 77% in writing. This compares very favourably with the National rates of 76%, 75% and 68% respectively.

2017 saw our second Year 6 cohort. This time 21 children sat the end of Key Stage 2 tests. Our overall combined reading, writing and mathematics result of 81% was significantly higher than National figure of 61%. We are extremely proud of the results and the tremendously hard work of staff and children.

Just one week into the new school year on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 we were visited for a one day Inspection by Ofsted. The HMI judged us to be continuing to be good and acknowledged the good quality of teaching at St. Mary's, the fact that our results are well above National average and also that the children in the early years have a great start to their education. She wrote that a strong culture of care is evident and that pupils are happy and feel safe at school. The HMI acknowledged that we have risen admirably to the challenge of changing from a first to a primary school and we were all delighted with her extremely positive comments. The letter from the HMI detailing the full outcomes is published on the Ofsted website.

This year's School Development Plan (SDP) incorporates the Ofsted next steps for the school to enable us to achieve our School Aims and Vision. It sets objectives for improving teaching and learning, and considering standards of achievement and pupil well-being. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team are regularly reporting progress of the plan at Committee and full Governors' meetings.

Each of these priorities is supported by a number of SMART objectives.

1. ***(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment).*** For all teaching to be at least 'Good' with an increase in 'Outstanding' teaching throughout the year.
2. ***(Outcomes for pupils at the school).*** To raise the proportion of children meeting and exceeding age related expectations across the school.
3. ***(Quality of Leadership and Management).*** To enable children to feel safe to take risks and challenge themselves in order to reach their true potential.
4. ***(Quality of Leadership and Management).*** To develop the role of subject leaders so that middle leaders fully understand the part they play in raising whole-school standards in the subjects for which they are responsible.

At the end of the summer term 2017 Miss Waterhouse, who has been at the school for five years, since she was a newly qualified teacher, left to further her career and to take up a post at another school. At the end of the Autumn term Mrs. Bottali left us to spend more time with her family. We were delighted to welcome Miss Groves, who now teaches the Year 3 class and Mrs. Brown who now teaches in Nursery. Mr. Wignall has joined us a temporary learning support assistant in Year 6 and Mrs. Coleman is working as maternity cover learning support assistant in Year 4. Our congratulations went to Hayley King and her partner on the safe arrival during the summer holidays of Arlo Kaser-King. Mrs. Blackmore and Mrs. Fleming have joined us to work in the school office and we are now fully staffed at St. Mary's.

Premises Projects carried out this year:

- New playground markings
- New climbing area in the Foundation Stage garden.
- New entrance to loft space next to the school hall.
- Painting of the stairwell and walls outside the hall.

Our Christian values underpin our school culture and every half term we still focus on a different value. For the children this is mainly explored through Collective Worship, RE lessons and as part of the SEAL curriculum (Social and emotional aspects of learning). We inform the parents in the newsletter, encouraging the whole school community to focus on the value together. The staff think about how they can embody the value, when they discuss it at a staff meeting.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Value</u>
Autumn 1	Justice	Spring 2	Humility
Autumn 2	Peace	Summer 1	Love
Spring 1	Trust	Summer 2	Compassion

St. Mary's, along with all schools in Hertfordshire have a new Herts Agreed Syllabus for the teaching of RE based on eight areas of learning:

**Beliefs and practices**

**Sources of wisdom**

**Symbols and actions**

**Prayer, worship and reflection**

**Identity and belonging**

**Ultimate questions**

**Human responsibility and values**

**Justice and fairness**

St. Mary's teachers have recently received training and implemented new Religious Education material to assist with the teaching of Christianity called 'Understanding Christianity' and we have used this to enrich the RE curriculum that covers each of the eight areas of learning, alongside the other five main world faiths: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism

Throughout its operation, the school promotes the fundamental British values including mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. To enrich the curriculum, Mrs Archbold organises many exciting trips and activities for the children. This year the children have enjoyed numerous trips and visits to enrich their understanding of Christianity and other world religions, in addition to the regular church services and assemblies run by Jonathan. These have included Remembrance, Harvest, Carol Service, Epiphany, Mother's Day and Easter Services.

- Year 2 have visited St Mary's Church and Northchurch Baptist Church.
- Year 1 visited St. Albans Synagogue
- Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral in September
- Year 3 visited the North Watford Mosque
- Year 4 visited Bhaktidevanta Manor, to help them understand and respect the Hindu faith. They enjoyed a traditional Indian lunch, a bullock cart ride and dressing up in traditional clothes.
- Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Rafi.
- In December the whole school once again held a Christingle service which was a lovely way to conclude the Autumn Term.
- Whole school assemblies by David Russell from Northchurch Baptist Church

In addition to the RE related trips and visits, the children also enjoyed other trips and activities at school, including:

- Year 3 trip to Amersham Field Study Centre
- Whole school author visit by Ian Whybrow in September
- Year 2 had trips to Tring Museum, College Lake, and London Zoo at Christmas to see the living Nativity.
- St. John's Ambulance, Fire Brigade, a Paramedic, a dentist, the Salvation Army and local Magistrates have visited the school to talk to the children throughout the course of the year
- Children from the choir in Years 5 and 6 took part in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in February.
- Year 3 visited Berkhamsted Castle
- Years Reception to Year 2 have taken part in a Bollywood Dance Workshop

- Year 3 visited Celtic Harmony in Hertford to experience life as a Celt
- Year 5 have been to the National Space Centre in Leicester and to Holdenby House, Northampton to take part in a World War II experience.
- Nursery and Reception visited College Lake
- Year 4 visited Verulamium Museum, St. Albans
- Year 4 and 5 took part in road safety awareness training
- Year 5 had a trip to Hazard Alley
- Whole school visit from Mike Mullen World BMX Bike Champion
- Year 6 visited Hemel Fire Station
- Year 5 and 6 took part in Cycle Training
- Year 6 went to a Professional Jazz Concert organised by Thomas Coram School
- The whole school enjoyed a performance of 'Treasure Island' as the end of term treat from the School Association in December
- Whole school visit and performance by Andy Instone from Urban Dance
- Year 4 had a residential visit to Green Park accompanied by Mrs. Christie and Mrs. Archbold
- Year 6 had a residential visit to Kingswood Activity Centre accompanied by Mrs. Dobbs, Mrs. Bottali and Mrs. O'Dell

Year 5 took part in the 'Fiver Challenge' organised by the Chamber of Commerce raised money from various enterprises which they organised themselves.

We have continued to work with Living Streets, on the WOW (Walk to school Once a Week) campaign. Children are encouraged to walk to school and those who do are rewarded with collectable badges. St Mary's continues to have one of the highest proportions of children who walk to school in the area.

The Smoult Trust has been most supportive to the school during the past year and has kindly provided funding to enable two children go on residential visits with their classes.

Supported by the Sports Premium funding, we continue to invest in equipment, pay for specialist PE coaching and staffing, bought into staff training and teaching resources, with the aim of sustainable improvement in the quality of PE teaching and learning. We have enjoyed being able to take part in an increasing amount of sport and our football and netball teams continue to compete in local leagues with increasing success and also take part in friendly matches against other local schools. Various sporting activities during the past year include:

- Several Cross Country run events
- County Cross Country run at St. Albans where we once again qualified for the national championships
- Trips to Sportspace to take part in various inter school activities
- Tri- Golf at Ashlyns School for Year 3.
- Berkhamsted Inter Schools Swimming Galas for Years 4, 5 and 6
- Girls' football with Ross and Andy
- Mini Olympics, Cricket and Tennis for various year groups.
- Dacorum Skip2bfit Competition

We are very proud of what the children have achieved in sport and PE at St. Mary's and this will continue to be an area of focus and development for us.

Some of the many activities that have run this year have included (\*free of charge);

Sports – Running Club\*, Netball Club, Boogaloo Boogie, Cheerleading, Tennis Club, Cricket Club, Speed-stacking\*

Other – Homework Club\*, Maths Club\*, Forest School\*, Green Team,\* Gardening Club\*, Collective Worship\*, Christian Union\*, Violin, Piano, Guitar, Recorder\* and ukulele\* tuition and Choir\*, Football Club, Netball Club, Girls' Football Club, Mini-Olympics, Rock Steady Music, Spanish Club and Growth Mindset\*.

As ever, the School Association has worked very hard, raising money throughout the past year. Successful events included a Summer and Christmas Fair, Gatsby Evening and Auction, Parents' Quiz, Discos, Film Clubs, Smartie Challenge, Photos by Carrie, Charity Match and Christmas Trees for Schools Scheme. They are funding i-Pads, lap top trolley, more football kit, Mother's Day flowers for every child, a contribution towards two school trips for every class and are continuing to raise money to help the Governors with a building project to upgrade the toilets in the top end of the school.

We encourage the whole school community to support local and national charities and this year we have raised money for, Children in Need, Sport Relief, The Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal, Homestart Dacorum, Hospice of St. Francis, Macmillan Cancer, Race for Life, Royal British Legion poppy appeal and Brain Tumour Research.

Ms Gore and Mrs O'Dell have continued to develop the use of the forest school area, which encourages children to become comfortable with an outdoor approach to education. The after-school Forest School Club has been rotated across the year groups, as we want all children to have the opportunity to enjoy these activities.

Activities have included bush-craft skills (lighting fires) on which they have toasted marshmallows and heated milk for hot chocolate, building shelters, arts and crafts using woodland materials, making chairs from old logs, learning about the natural world (investigating habitats, creating homes for wildlife), as well as games.

The wraparound child care continues to be very popular with our parents. This means that children can be looked after at Breakfast Club from 7.45 a.m. and remain in school at the after school club until collection at 6.00 p.m. Children who are not in full-time education are able to join our lunch club and then take part in Pre-School, before joining the older children after school for the club.

The annual music concert in July was once again a highlight of the year. Children learning music within and outside school were given the chance to perform in the concert, organised by Mrs Christie, with the kind help of Mr. and Mrs. Horton and Mrs. Osmond.

In July, the KS2 production, "The Wizard of Oz" was another highlight and included singing and acting of an exceptionally high standard.

The Nursery and Reception and Year 1 and 2 Nativity performances in December were thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school and all the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 were given the opportunity to take part and perform in front of their families and friends. Years 3 and 4 then took centre stage in the Carol Concert at the end of the Autumn Term in St. Mary's Church.

We see music as an area to continue to develop at St Mary's. We have renegotiated our contract with the Herts Music Service, to include providing training for our teachers, to develop the quality of music provision in the classroom. We continue to offer peripatetic music lessons in violin, guitar and piano. The music service also runs a school choir (free of charge to parents), where the children are prepared for events during the year. They proudly performed in front of their families at the O2 Arena on the 1st February this year.

St Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their running 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 encouraged to pay a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Governors who have left during the past year, for their dedication and contribution:-

Hannah Horton, John Canagasarium and Peach Berry.

Our Chair since September 2017 is Alan Kemp and The Reverend Jonathan Gordon is Vice Chair.

Because we are a Church school the majority of the Governors are appointed by the PCC and the Diocese. Replacement governors are urgently required and we would ask for consideration to be given by anyone who would be interested in this very rewarding position, which makes a real difference to the school and the local community.

The Governing body have worked extremely hard throughout the past year, providing support and challenge, for which the school is extremely grateful.

Vanessa Hunt  
Headteacher at St. Mary's CE Primary School

Alan Kemp  
Chair of Governors at St. Mary's CE Primary School