



**S<sup>t</sup> Mary's C of E Primary School**  
**'Excellence Together, Learning through Faith'**

**Update Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
Headteacher Miss V M Hunt  
Core Christian Value for this half term: Endurance  
Learning to learn skill : Curiosity

**Dear Parents,**

**Staff News**

We are delighted to welcome Miss Van Komen, who will be joining Year 3 on her final year student teacher placement. Miss Van Komen will be working under the direct supervision of Miss Groves.

**Year 5 Maths Challenge**

Congratulations to the children from Year 5 who represented the school brilliantly at the Maths Challenge at Bridgewater School on Wednesday. They showed great determination and thinking skills in the face of some *extremely* challenging questions !

**O2 Concert**

On Thursday 31st January members of the choir from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 arena. The children had worked very hard learning all the songs. During the afternoon they rehearsed with the choirs from all the other schools and the soloists who would be taking part. The evening performance started at 7pm. Our children sang beautifully and performed enthusiastically. Well done to all those who took part; you were fantastic.

Mrs Christie

Thank you also to Mr Potter, Mrs Christie and Mrs Coleman for accompanying the children and looking after them. Miss Hunt

**Dance Workshop**

Last Thursday afternoon, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in dance workshops as part of our whole school topic, 'The World Around Us.' They had a very short amount of time to learn the (pretty complicated) dances and they then performed them to the parents. The Year 1's learnt a traditional English Sea Shanty dance, Reception learnt a Chinese dance to fit in with their learning about Chinese New Year and then Year 2 learnt a Bollywood dance as we have been learning about India this half term.

We were all so impressed with how confidently and enthusiastically the children performed the dances. They were all amazing! Thank you also to all of the parents who were able to come to watch. It really made it a special event for the children and hopefully for you too.

Mrs Zimet

**Puzzle Challenge Day**

Next Tuesday we have The Happy Puzzle Company coming into school to run 'Brain Blasters' workshops with the children. After school they will be selling a selection of their puzzles and games in the playground. Please do come along and support our Feeling Good week. Puzzles and games start from just 75p!

Thank you

Ms Gore

**News from Reception**

What an amazing bunch of children we have in Reception. I am so impressed with them. Not only did they all learn their lines but they all spoke up really loudly. It is not easy standing up on stage and yet they all did it with smiley faces. Each and every child learnt the songs and danced all the way through. I really thought I was pushing it with a song in Chinese but .....! I hope it was clear how much they have all learnt this term. We have worked so hard on addition and the language of time. We have looked at the types of houses we live in and compared to other houses across the world. We read 'Biscuit Bear' and wrote Resolutions. It has been an action packed term and the children are all really blooming. Next week is Feeling Good Week and I can't wait to join in with all the activities. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. They are a truly wonderful class. I am very proud of them. Have a great half term.

Mrs Bates

**Church Service**

This Sunday at St Mary's Church at 10.00am there will be second Sunday All Age Service with the music group. There will be activities for children and a crèche. The theme will be fishing and St Luke's story of the call of St Peter.

### **Pre-school bulletin**

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, in particular the Chinese style dancing!

Next week is the Herts County Council initiative, Feeling Good Week. We shall use this to talk to the children about being happy. This will involve recognising when our friends are happy or sad, facial expressions, being kind, sharing etc. We have suitable books that we will share with them, this is a great way to help them understand their feelings and to see how others express their emotions, and also to feel positive about themselves.

As it is Valentine's day on Thursday, we shall ask the children what they love about the special people in their life. We shall also be making cards to take home.

For any information about Pre-school you are welcome to email us at [stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com)

Have a lovely weekend,

Lisa Burkett and the Pre-school team.

### **Social Media**

Please can we remind parents that under the terms of the Home School Agreement no derogatory comments regarding the school should be posted on social media. If you have any concerns regarding the school please contact the school office directly so that the issue can be resolved.

### **Safety**

We are currently having problems with parents parking on the zig zag lines & single yellow lines outside the school at drop off and pick up times. This substantially increases the risk to children entering and leaving the school. This illegal parking is also dangerous to other drivers. Please be aware that after several complaints from local residents we have reported this issue to the local police who have advised that they will start to carry out spot checks.

### **Healthy Snacks**

Please can we remind children in Years 3-6 that their break time snack should **only** be fruit or vegetables.

### **Open Classrooms**

Thank you to all the parents who came in on Wednesday. The next open classrooms event is on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Voluntary contributions**

St. Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their funding 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 often invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

We would like to invite parents to make a **voluntary contribution of £5 per family, each term**, towards the school capital maintenance fund. The maintenance contribution will be used for the upkeep of the school premises. We will report to parents at the end of the year on how the money donated has been spent.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution starting this term, please could you pay this via the School Gateway.

Payments can be made each term or one payment for the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:breakfast.club@stmarys916.herts.sch).

Title	Class	Via
Year 2 Athletics Festival	2	Email
Feeling Good Week Letter	R - 6	Email
SIAMS Inspection System	All	Email
Nursery Newsletter 8/2/2019	N	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Happy Puzzle Company Workshops R – Y6	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 5 class assembly to parents	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 9.10am
Year 3 Treat Friday	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Half Term	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Prospective nursery parent tour	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February

Next newsletter on Friday 1st March

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and relaxing half term. 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