



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

Update Friday 15th March 2019

Headteacher Miss V M Hunt
Core Christian Value for this half term: Thankfulness
Learning to learn skill : Creativity

Dear Parents,

Out of School Achievements

Abigail (Y6) has won 1st place in an ice skating competition for spin, spiral and jump.

Chloe, Scarlett and Martha ran for St Mary's as a Year 4 team in the Bridgewater Cross Country Race and came 3rd.

Finley (R) has achieved Level 10 in the Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club's In-House Awards Scheme.

Hayley (Y2) has passed her Grade 2 gymnastics exam with the Hertfordshire Gymnastics Association.

Izzy (Y1) has achieved a Musical Theatre Rosette (white).

Jasper (N) has passed the British Gymnastics proficiency award for pre-school 1st badge.

Lexie (Y2) has been awarded Gymnast of the Month at Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club.

Lottie (Y2) has passed Level 6 in Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club awards scheme.

Mia (Y4) came 19th in the Bridgewater Cross Country Race.

Scarlett and Martha in Year 4 ran the Berkhamsted 5 mile Fun Run in 49minutes and 20 seconds.

Sophia (R) has passed STANley 3 Swimming award.

Sofia (Y4) has passed her Grade 1 ballet exam with merit.

Congratulations to you all.

Special Achievers Certificates

Reception: William, Finley
Year 1: Ellie-Mae, Sienna
Year 2: Freddie, Devon
Year 4: Isabelle, Ruby
Year 5: Mason, Olly
Year 6: Joe, Charlotte

Well done to all these children

Rev Jonathan Gordon

Congratulations to Jonathan on his recent appointment as Canon of St. Albans Cathedral.

School Meal Price Increase

With effect from April 6th 2019, the cost of a school meal will be £2.65. Children in Reception – Year 2 will continue to qualify for Universal Free School Meals.

Catering Team Nomination

Miss Hunt has nominated Helen & Karen, our kitchen staff, for the HCL award of 'Catering Team of the Year'. Helen and Karen work so hard to provide the children with tasty, nutritious and interesting school meals. They keep an impressively clean kitchen and our food hygiene rating is regularly awarded 5.

Year 1 Sportspace Competition

Year 1 went to Sportspace on Monday to take part in an Inter-schools multi skills activity morning. We all had great fun with the different activities such as speed stacking with normal sized and giant cups, beanbag balancing, basketball bouncing and target throwing. There were ten schools taking part and St Mary's children behaved really well throughout the morning.

Ms Gore

British Science Week

On Friday 8th March we were very excited to launch British Science Week with a visit from Spirit of the Wild. Each year group had an exciting workshop where they had the opportunity to meet and learn about a range of wildlife including birds, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. We celebrated the rest of British Science week with exciting science investigations and experiments across the school causing lots of awe and wonder. It was lovely to see the children having great fun observing, questioning, justifying and predicting. Thank you to all the children who brought in and shared their learning about a famous scientist or inventor. Hopefully the week has inspired some budding future scientists!

Mrs Brown

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

World Book Day was a fantastic day despite our professional story teller cancelling due to illness. (We are currently organising another date for his visit). Ms Forsyth came in to fill the void and entertained the children with a traditional story of her own – ably assisted by some of the children acting out the parts.

The children had a great day sharing stories with each other across the year groups and the visiting parents who read with lots of different children were brilliant. Thank you !

The response to the extreme reading competition was absolutely overwhelming and choosing winners was a challenge itself.

The winners are :

Thomas – Y6

Mollie – Y5

Charlie – Y4

Poppy – Y3

Gil – Y2

Leila – Y1

Evie - R

Frankie – N

Well done and thank you to all our Extreme Readers !

Ms Forysth

News from Reception

The children have really made my birthday very special. There are many advantages in working with young children, especially where birthdays are concerned. It certainly won't be as exciting at home! We had balloons and streamers as well as some yummy watermelon. I'm sure you have read about the removal of sugary treats from school. Thank you for the lovely cards and gifts, I feel very spoilt. I've given each child a blower to take home. You can all thank me for getting them all excited and adding a noisy toy. We have had such a wonderful week. We had a visit from the Police Officer and Community Police Officer who very kindly arrived in the police van. It was so exciting to hear the sirens. We all enjoyed trying on the uniform. We also took part in the whole school Science week. We made slime as well as giant bubbles, dancing raisins and jumping beans. The children have worked so hard and many are really flourishing now. It's an exciting time!

Mrs Bates

Pre-school bulletin 15/3/19

This week at Pre-school we have enjoyed making fruit kebabs as we have continued our healthy eating topic. We have tasted different types of fruit, and talked about their different properties such as colour, pips, seeds, skin, peel, segment etc. We were also very lucky to have welcomed Mrs Marson into Pre-school to continue to teach us sign language. The children were able to show Mrs Marson what we had been practising from last week. This week we learnt to sign the numbers 1 to 10, and the signs to be able to sing and sign 'Once I caught a fish alive'.

We shall sing and sign this at the end of each day to practice.

If you would like any information about Pre-school, please speak to me at the end of the school day or email

stmaryspreschool.northchurch@gmail.com

Have a lovely weekend,

Lisa Burkett and the Pre-school Team.

Y6 Residential & SATs meeting

A reminder that the Year 6 Residential & SATs meeting is on Wednesday 27th March at 6pm. This meeting is for parents.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will be on Tuesday 2nd April from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm or Wednesday 3rd April from 3.40 pm to 6.00 pm. The on-line appointment booking system will go live at 7pm on Saturday 16th March. As part of their transition to secondary school, Y6 children are invited to attend with their parents.

Please visit

<https://stmarysberkhamsted.parenteveningsystem.co.uk> and refer to the letter sent on March 12th to book your appointments.

Visit From Sue Hampton

The author Sue Hampton will be joining us on Thursday April 4th, and selling her books after the Nursery session at 11.45am and at the end of the school day. Her writing has been praised by many other authors, including the great Michael Morpurgo, whose stories she used to share with her classes when she taught for eleven years at St Mary's. With 32 titles across genres for children, teenagers and adults, she has something for everyone.

See <https://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk/> for more details.

School Association

The School Association Quiz Night is booked for Friday 22nd March. Doors open at 7.45pm and we will start at 8pm. The quiz will once again be hosted by Clare and Sid and we're looking to beat our total raised of £800 last year. Tickets are £12.50 per person and include a cheese board. You can bring your own soft or alcoholic drinks, as well as any additional snacks you need. Teams will be made up of eight people, but if you don't have a full team we can merge people together once we have your form and payment.

Please complete the online form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/vsCV9Lij12b6AVGG3> before making payment by bank transfer or cheque.

Please make payment by bank transfer, using your surname as the reference, to:

Account number: 00270977

Sort Code: 30-90-73

If a bank transfer is not possible, payment may be made by cheque, made payable to 'St Mary's School Association'. Please write your child's name and class year on the reverse of the cheque and return to the School Association Mailbox located just outside the school office. In line with the school's cash free policy, **we do not accept payment by cash.**

The completed form and payment must both be received by Friday 15th March. We regret that we will not be able to accept ticket bookings where both form and payment are not received by this date.

Thank you for your support!
St Mary's School Association

Modern Foreign Languages Day

On Monday 1st April we will be celebrating learning a foreign language with a Modern Foreign Languages Day. We have a specialist teacher visiting us for the day who will teach a session in each class. We would like the children to dress in the colours of the French flag (red, white and blue) to celebrate the day and contribute to making it a fun experience for all. They do not have to wear all 3 colours. The children will learn some French vocabulary, sing songs and take part in some art/craft activities.

Mrs Christie

September 2019 Nursery Places

If you wish to apply for a Nursery place next September, please complete the online admissions form on the school website. Applications for Nursery places must be made before **15 March 2019.**

New Academic Year

To help with our forward planning, if you already know that your child will not be returning to St Mary's for the new academic year starting in September 2019 please inform the office as soon as possible.

Birthday Treats

We aim to be a healthy school and as such the school does not condone children bringing sweets to school when it is their birthday.

Spare Shoes In School

Please ensure that children have wellies or trainers to change into for outside play as the field is still very muddy.

Nursery Request

Nursery would really like a dolls pushchair (good condition) and a wooden doll's bed if any of the parents of older children are having a clear out. Thank you.

Parent View

Parents and carers can give their views of our school at any time of the school year **and** at the time of a school inspection using an online questionnaire called Parent View.

When our school is notified of its next Ofsted inspection, parents will be invited to give their views about the school to inspectors using the Parent View online facility as this has replaced Ofsted's paper questionnaire. Please register with an email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to 12 short questions.

Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school, and to help us know what is going well and what could be improved.

Safety

We are still 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. The police have advised that they will carry out spot checks.

School Council News

School Council would like to thank all the children who bought snack bars at Tuck Shop and the parents who financed this. We will fit in another tuck shop on 26th, 27th and 28th March. We have enough funds to purchase some more variations and I would really welcome suggestions on this. Remember, our tuck shop is a healthy tuck shop and ideally our RRP is £1 and under where possible. For those with allergies I would especially welcome suggestions.

Thank you for all your support with donations to Red Nose Day today. On Thursday 28th March we are inviting the children to get involved in Wear a Hat Day for Brain Tumour Research and we suggest a voluntary donation of £1. Wear a Hat Day 2019 is one of the UK's most spectacular events, raising funds and awareness for vital research into brain tumours. We are so very grateful for the enormous support you give to these charities and it really is a massive part of our school ethos.

School Council have been saying to me that they would like a lunch club to attend where they could drop in and chat. I can provide a friendly ear and a safe space. This lunch club will run with support from Reverend Jonathon on Mondays, starting March 25th. Children are being invited to just drop in to my classroom at 12.30 if they wish to.

Mrs Bates and School Council

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
Science Week Letter	All	Email
Year 6 Curriculum Letter	Y6	Email
Year 1 Sportspace Event	Y1	Email
Ross & Andy Mini Pee Wee Camps	N & R	Email
Nursery newsletter 8/3/2019 & 15/3/2019	N	Email
Cheerleading Club	R – Y6	Email
New Spanish Club	Y2-4	Email
Parents' Evening Letter	N-R	Email
Year 1 Woburn Safari Park	Y1	Email
Y3 Egyptian Day	Y3	Email

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

Event	Date & Time
Reception Health Screening	Tuesday 19 th March - am
Y4 Victorian Day	Wednesday 20 th March
Y5/6 Knex Challenge	Wednesday 20 th March
Y2 Class Assembly to Parents	Thursday 21 st March 9.10am
Year 5 Treat Friday	Friday 22 nd March
School Association Quiz Night	Friday 22 nd March
Y3 Egyptian Day	Monday 25 th March
Y6 Residential & SATs meeting	Wednesday 27 th March 6pm
Mother's Day Secret Room	Wednesday 27 th March
Wear a hat to school day	Thursday 28 th March
Year 1 trip to Woburn Safari Park	Thursday 28 th March
Y3 Class Assembly to Parents	Thursday 28 th March 9.10am
Open Classrooms	Thursday 28 th March 3.20-3.45 pm
Mothers' Day Service in Church	Friday 29 th March 9.30 am
Rocksteady Concert	Friday 29 th March 2.30pm
Modern Foreign Languages Day	Monday 1 st April
Parents' Consultations	Tuesday 2 nd April 5-8pm & Wednesday 3 rd April 3.40-6pm
Year 1 Class Assembly to Parents	Thursday 4 th April 9.10am
Easter Church Service	Friday 5 th April 9.30am
End of Spring term	Friday 5 th April - Finish 1.30pm
Woodrow Residential Parents Meeting – Year 4	Thursday 25 th April 3.30pm

Next newsletter on Friday 29th March

I hope you all have a lovely 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