



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum"

Telephone: 01798 872007

8th December 2017

HOPE, COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE

Anti-Bullying Poster Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our Anti-Bullying Poster competition and to Mrs Robinson and the School Council for arranging it and for choosing the winners. Choosing the winners must have been a hard task because the standard was very high in both Key Stages. The four winning posters were designed by Robyn (India class), Erin (Sierra Leone class), Caitlin (Japan class) and Mae (New Zealand class). Their posters have now been copied, laminated and are on display across the school as a reminder to everyone that by working together we can not only overcome bullying but stop it before it becomes an issue.



Christingle Service

Mrs Callendar was delighted to see some familiar faces at the Christingle Service on Sunday. Hopefully there will be an even better turn out at next years' service. We would also like to thank Sainsbury's supermarket for their generous donation of oranges. The children also raised well over £150 in their Christingle candles and this has been donated to the charity.

St Mary's School Choir

This is always a busy time of the year for Mr Rogers and the school choir. They have already started work on their repertoire of Christmas songs and carols and have given their first performance at The Anchorage Nursing Home. Next week they will be singing at Riverside, Tesco and also at our Christmas Eucharist. If you would like to hear them sing please either come along to the Eucharist on Thursday 14th at 9.00am or go along to Tesco at 2.00pm on Friday 15th.



Austria and UK visit to the Library

It has been a busy week for both of our Reception classes. As well as rehearsing for their Nativity Play they have also found the time to visit our local Library.

"A love of books changes lives. Children who read for pleasure are likely to do better at school, as well as be more socially, culturally and emotionally prepared for life." With this thought in mind we decided that it was really important to take UK. and Austria class to the library on Wednesday. We were met by children's librarian, Lavinia McHugh. She read stories and sang songs with the children. At the end of the session everyone went back to school with a library book. Mrs. Huntley-Hart and I hope that our classes will now make regular visits to the library and read lots of their books.



Lee Callender – Early Years Coordinator.

Forest School

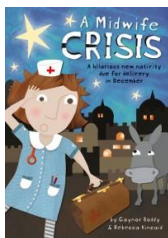
In an age when many children have few opportunities to be out of doors Forest School offers children an exciting and stimulating way to learn in a woodland setting. Everyone at St Mary's enjoys being taught in a classroom 'without walls' where the natural environment is used as a learning tool.

This week we were fortunate to take delivery of a very generous gift of some wonderful logs which we can use as stepping stones or seating and can be used to enhance all sorts of outdoor learning activities. We would like to thank Faye Church (mum of Olivia in UK class) who sourced the logs, Nik Church and Mr Arnell who gave up their Saturday afternoon to deliver the logs and to Storrington Sawmill for providing them.



South Africa class had a Forest School day this week and were the first class to be able to enjoy the new stepping stones. A group of boys rolled the logs to form a set of stepping stones and then set themselves the challenge of jumping or hopping from one to another. It may sound easy but the boys had set the logs really far apart and it took several practice tries before anyone was able to complete the course. Another group built a very impressive free-standing den complete with insulation (leaves packed between the logs), waterproofing and even a drainage system. Other highlights included cooking marshmallows over the fire (popular with all year groups), making Christmas-themed necklaces and spinners and taking pet 'logs' for a walk. It was absolutely lovely to see so much learning going on outside of the classroom with children working together to achieve great things.

Christmas productions



Time is running out to get tickets for the Reception Nativity and the Key Stage One Christmas production, 'A Midwife Crisis'. If you still need tickets please contact the office as soon as possible. Rehearsals are well underway and the children are looking forward to dazzling you with their amazing acting and singing.



Year Five visit to Lodge Hill

Our first group of Year Five children have now completed two days at Lodge Hill. As always their behaviour was impeccable and the staff at the centre praised them for their teamwork, resilience and willingness to take on new challenges. The rest of Year Five are now looking forward to when they also get to spend two days at the Centre. Our thanks to the local Rotary Club who have sponsored this event and in particular, Matthew, who has given up his time to visit the children in school and accompany them to Lodge Hill.



Led by a Star

This special village event will be held this year on Friday 15th December. Everyone is invited to gather at 6.00pm outside The Chequers from where we will all walk to the Village Hall. Chequers have kindly offered to provide free 'glow in the dark' sticks to help guide the way. If it happens to be raining the event will start at 6.30pm at the Village Hall. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at what is always a lovely village celebration.



Village Carol Concert

Village Carol concert on 20th December at 7.30pm in church all welcome.

STEMKids 'Young Engineers'

Don't forget to book onto the STEMKids 'Young Engineers' KS2 after school club which will be running after Christmas.

Young Engineers consists of 4 practical, hands-on science, engineering and technology sessions where children

design and make a range of products including:

- Band planes
- Balloon powered cars

- Pneumatic toys

- Electronic pocket torches

All sessions are delivered by a STEM specialist and products made can be taken home.

Dates: Tuesdays 16th, 23rd, 30th January and 6th February 2018

Cost: £7 per session Time: 3.15pm—4.15pm

To book: Register online www.stemkids.co.uk

PTA Advent Raffle Prize Draws –

Winning tickets so far

Day One - 01957 - Mrs C Ford

Day Two - 00632 - Mrs B Broom

Day Three - 00556 - Moira Kendall

Day Four - 01798 - Helen Johnson

Day Five - 00549 - Caroline Jolly

Day Six - 01805 - Samantha Adams

Day Seven - 00118 - Debi Jones



Post box information

Christmas Post Box for any children's Christmas Cards is located in the front office and will be distributed throughout the rest of term.

Also please note that the blue office post box has been relocated to beside the PTA post box.

Joanna Brown

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

December			
Fri 8th	School Choir - Christmas Carols at the Anchorage PTA Pop up Christmas Shop (front playground)	1.30pm 3.15pm	Choir only
Mon 11th	Rock Steady End of year Concert UK & Austria Nativity in th School Hall	9am 1.30pm & 6pm	All welcome 3 Tickets per family
Tues 12th	KS1 Christmas Production	1.45pm & 6pm	3 Tickets per family
Wed 13th	School Choir - Christmas Carols at Riverside Court KS1 Christmas Production	6pm	Choir only 3 Tickets per family
Thurs 14th	Christmas Eucharist Team Party	9am 2pm & 3pm	All welcome Winning Team
Fri 15th	Christmas Lunch Reindeer Run fundraiser (Chestnut Tree House) Led by a Star Leaving the Chequers Arriving at the Village Hall	12.30pm - 1.30pm During the day 6pm 6.30pm	All years All years All welcome
Mon 18th	Pantomime in school - Children olny	9.30am	All years
Tue 19th	PTA School Disco	5pm-6pm 6.15pm-7.30pm	KS1 KS2
Wed 20th	Last day of Autumn Term		
January' 2018			
Thurs 4th	Spring Term begins	8.45am-3.15pm	All years

Details of class parties will come out seperatly through class teachers.