



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



NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01798 872007

October 2016

Next term's Christian values will be Hope, Perseverance and Courage.

INSET DAY: A reminder that the Monday straight after this half-term break is an INSET day. Children should return to school Tuesday, 1st November.

OPEN EVENING: This is the time of year when parents with younger children are starting to think about school for September 2017. If you know of any families with children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, please be sure to tell them all about St Mary's and, in particular, about our Open Evening for new parents. This will be on **THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER** between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. If you already have children at St Mary's and have a younger child who will be ready for school in September next year you still need to apply for a place in the usual way.

6 WEEKS' IN MEETING: Thank you to all the Reception class parents who came along to our 6 Weeks' In Meeting. It is always useful to hear direct from you about what has gone well and what we could improve upon for next year. Just because we have an Outstanding Early Years Provision doesn't mean that we will become complacent.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION: Don't forget that you still have until 3.30pm on Tuesday 1st November to vote in the Parent Governor Election. Ballot forms are available at the school office or on-line.

FAREWELL TO FATHER PAUL: It was lovely to see so many of you at our Harvest Eucharist especially as it was Father Paul's last visit to the school before his move to Crawley. Children from each class in the school had made cards and written special memories which were presented to Father Paul at the end of the service. I know he will treasure these for many years to come. Father Paul was also presented with an ornamental bay tree for his new garden. It was also lovely to see so many of you at St Mary's Parish Church for Father Paul's last Parish Eucharist. Children wearing their Brownie, Beaver, Cubs and Scout uniforms looked extremely smart and lots of our children came to the front of the Church to lead the congregation in singing Harvest Samba; very well done all of you.

ALL SAINTS' DAY EUCHARIST: We are very fortunate that Father Jack has agreed to step into Father Paul's shoes (for a short time anyway) so we will still be able to celebrate special festivals at school. We will be holding an All Saints' Day Eucharist at 9.00am on Thursday 3rd November.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: On 11th November we will be having a special Remembrance Day service here at school. Children who belong to Brownies, Beavers, Cub or Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms on that day. We will also have Poppies on sale in school. St Mary's will also be represented at the Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday and I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES: Thank you to children in South Africa, Jamaica, China and Canada classes for sharing their learning with us at class assemblies. Once again we were joined by parents, grandparents and friends.

UNIFORM: Please could everyone check that children have their own uniform and not someone else's! A number of school sweatshirts and PE kits (including trainers) have recently been mislaid and it is possible that they may have been taken home by mistake. Whilst on the subject of uniform a very big thank you to everyone for using more discrete ways of tying back children's hair. It is now only very occasionally that we have to ask for large and brightly coloured bows and headbands to be removed or replaced with something more appropriate for school.

CONGRATULATIONS to our talented Mathematicians who took part in a Maths Challenge at Windlesham House School. Also to our talented Athletes and our 7 Billion Ideas winners; the Tremendous Telescope Team, who represented St Mary's at The Weald School this week.

VINE LEAVES: As you will all know these awards are extremely special because they are only awarded to children who have demonstrated one or more of our Christian values in a particularly special way. So far this term Vine Leaves have been awarded to Jimmy S., William C., Amelia M. and Candis C.

FIRE PRACTICE: We held our first Fire Practice of this year last week and I am pleased to be able to let you know that all the children and all the adults, including visitors, left the building safely in a fraction over three minutes. Particularly well done to all our Reception children who took part for the first time.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: The School Council representative have now canvassed the opinions of their respective classes to decide which charities they want to support this year. The School Council then voted on the top three charities and decided upon; Family Support Work, Cancer Research UK and Water Aid. During the course of the year we will be raising money to support these three charities.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Our hot school meals provider, Chartwells, are offering a special Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 7th December. Children who are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal (that is children in Reception, Year One and Year Two) as well as any children in Key Stage Two who qualify for the Pupil Premium Grant will not be charged for this festive lunch. Any other children in Key Stage Two who would like to enjoy turkey and a Christmas dessert will need to have their meals booked on-line in the usual way. The cost will still be the standard £2.30 per meal. Please contact Chartwells in advance if your child has any special dietary requirements. If these are backed up by a letter from your GP or hospital Chartwells will endeavour to provide a suitable hot meal but please bear in mind that this may take several weeks to arrange. There is a direct link from our school website to Chartwells or you can log on via www.westsussex.mealselector.co.uk. Children who prefer a packed lunch will still be able to enjoy the Christmas atmosphere of music and Christmas crackers. You might like to include a special Christmas treat in their packed lunch for that day.

I hope you will have noticed that almost everything in this Newsletter has been extremely positive and has praised our children's wonderful achievements. However, there is one thing that is still troubling us at school and that is the inappropriate language that a very small number of children are using. Whilst we understand that children may come across foul language through watching TV or even hearing it in the street we cannot allow them to repeat it at school. Please explain to your children that we do not use these words at St Mary's. Thank you.

Finally, please accept my apologies that this Newsletter is not embellished with the usual artwork that Mrs Hancock manages to find. Mrs Hancock has been away this week on the Year Five residential visit to Marchant's Hill. We have been in regular contact with the group who have relayed many exciting events that the children have clearly thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks to Mr Partis, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Parsons and Mrs Hancock for giving up so much of their time and enabling this visit to go ahead. Thanks also to Mrs Copus and Mr Rogers who both visited Marchant's Hill during the day.

I look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 1st November and wish you all a very happy Half Term break.

Joanna Brown, Headteacher