



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



# NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01798 872007

February 2016

**Christian value: Humility**

## My Home at Christmas Competition

Last term, Cubitt and West estate agents sponsored a drawing competition for children in local schools. I am delighted to be able to tell you that the following children from St Mary's were winners in this competition:

Hannah and William E, Tom S, Phoebe-Anne H, Callum T, Alexander V

Well done, all of you and many thanks to all the children who entered the competition.



## INSET Days 2016-2017



We have now set our INSET days for the next academic year and I would hope that all parents will consider these, together with term dates, very carefully when booking holidays. They are: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Taking children out of school for holidays invariably affects their learning and cannot be authorised unless there are truly exceptional circumstances.

## Vine Leaves – Christian Values

Vine leaves are awarded to those children who have demonstrated the Christian value for the term, which this past half term was humility. Congratulations to those children who have earned vine leaves so far this term:



Caitlin R, Albert , Kitty R, Lucy A, Rhianna T, Molly B, Holly K, Lila T-W, Raphael S, Holly S and Kirsty M.

## Year 6 Events



Congratulations to Year Six pupils for taking part in Bikeability Training and very well done for coping with some of the worst weather and strongest winds, especially on the first day of your training. Thank you to those parents who may have passed them while they were out on the roads for giving them a wide berth! Also well done to those Year 6 who took part in the Weald Book Awards.

## Cake Sales



Thanks to everyone for supporting the Cake Sales on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Jessica and Teigan organised the sale in aid of Cancer Research UK which raised over £130 whilst Oliver organised the sale in aid of the Church Roof Fund. Over £110 was raised for the Church Roof Fund which is enough to purchase 11.5 new tiles. Further information about how you can support the Church Roof Fund is available from the School Office.

## Choral Day – Christ’s Hospital

Several members of the Junior Choir spent a day at Christ’s Hospital School where they had the opportunity to take part in a day of Choral Singing. Apart from singing, they had the opportunity to tour the school and watch the famous Lunch Parade, headed by the band. They were an absolute credit to St Mary’s; Jessica C, Ellen O, Ella J, Josh L, Raphael S, Jessica B-R, Adelaide G and James C. Thank you to Mr Rogers for arranging this visit.



## Internet Safety Day



This week the children took part in Internet Safety Day, learning about how to keep safe while using the internet and social media. Thank you to Mrs Robinson who provided resources and teaching ideas so that children across the whole school have been able to take part in Safer Internet Day this week.

## Mrs Castle

I am sure you would like to join me in offering congratulations to Mrs Castle. As well as being one of our most experienced teaching assistants, she has worked tirelessly for the Scout Association and was recently awarded the Chief Scout’s 20 Years’ Service Award. Well done and thank you on behalf of all the young people who have benefited from your commitment to Scouting.



## School Uniform

An increasing number of children seem to be wearing trainers in school. Please bear in mind that these are **not** part of our school uniform. All children should be wearing black school shoes.



Still on the question of school uniform could I ask that children have their full PE Kit in school **every day**. Occasionally the usual PE timetables are changed and it is disappointing for the children if they are unable to take part. The correct PE kit is much appreciated. At the very least children should be wearing dark shorts and a plain white T shirt, with plimsolls if they are going outside. If there is any reason why your child may be unable to take part in PE lessons, please make sure that they bring in a letter from home. In general, if a child is well enough to be in school they are deemed to be well enough to take part in all activities including PE, Forest School and outdoor breaks.

### Thefts from cars



We have been made aware that there have been a number of cars being broken into in the Collingwood Road area. Please be extra careful to lock cars and not leave valuables where they can be seen.

### Sports

Continuing on the theme of PE we are very proud of all our children who have represented St Mary's at football, netball, hockey, tag rugby and cross-country events this term. In particular we want to say "Good Luck", to Hazel from Japan class in the finals of the Cross Country competition. We will be thinking of you on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February and look forward to hearing how you get on after the half term break.



### Absence from school



If your child is absent from school please remember to telephone the school as soon as possible. This is so that we can account for every child on the register and also alert other parents of any contagious illnesses. Also, if you know that your child will be absent due to a medical appointment, please let us know beforehand and, if possible, let us have a copy of the appointment letter. If we have not heard from you by 10.15am, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised. This mark will stay with them throughout their school days.

### Hot school meals



It is lovely to see so many children enjoying a hot meal at lunch time. However, there are a small number of children who are saying that they do not like any of the three main meals available each day. If you think this may be an issue for your child you might want to consider providing a packed lunch until your child feels ready to try new foods. We don't want any child to go hungry but neither do we want children becoming upset when there is nothing on the menu that they like.

### School Eucharist



Thank you to Fr Paul for coming into school on Thursday for our Ash Wednesday Eucharist and well done to children in Year Three who read the prayers and Gospel so beautifully. Fr Paul talked to the children about the importance of Ash Wednesday and how it links so well with our current theme of Humility. Only one parent was able to join us for this Eucharist so I am hoping to see more of you at our Easter Eucharist on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

I am sure you are all looking forward to the half term break and I wish you a happy and peaceful week. Please remember that **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is an INSET day**. Children should return to school on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>.