



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



NEWSLETTER

A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

Telephone: 01798 872007

November 2015

Our Christian value for this half term is: FRIENDSHIP

Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone after what I hope was a relaxing half term break. We have another very busy half term to look forward to, starting with our Open Evening on 3rd November and our All Saints' Eucharist at 9.00am on Thursday 5th.

Tea and Chat



This term's Tea and Chat is a Breakfast meeting on Wednesday 4 November (tomorrow) at 9.00am and will be hosted by Mrs Martin-Wells who will be talking about Maths and how it is taught at St Mary's. Come along if you would like to know more about this, tea and pastries will be readily available!

All Saints' Eucharist – Thursday 5 November

All are welcome to celebrate our whole school Eucharist to commemorate All Saints. The service starts at 9.00am and finishes at approx. 9.45am.



Remembrance Day – Sunday 8 November



As we approach Remembrance Day we will be encouraging the children to spend some time thinking of all those people who have given their lives in the pursuit of peace, not only in this country but around the world. Children will be able to buy poppies in school from Tuesday 3rd onwards. I also hope to see as many children as possible at the Remembrance Day service in Pulborough on Sunday 8th where our Head Boy (Oscar) and Head Girl (Eleanor) will be laying a wreath on behalf of all the children at St Mary's. The Service of Remembrance begins at the War Memorial at approx. 10.45am.

Class assemblies



We have also enjoyed three class assemblies: Jamaica, Sierra Leone and Thailand. These assemblies are a marvellous way for the children to get used to speaking and acting in public and once again I have been hugely impressed by the breadth of learning the children were able to showcase. Many thanks to the staff for all their hard work in putting these assemblies together and to the large number of parents and grandparents who were able to join us.

Car parking

Many thanks to all those parents who are driving carefully and parking slightly further away from school and then walking in. This is making the school entrance much safer for our children. However, we still have a small number of parents who quite regularly stop on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school or who park on the pavements. This is highly inconsiderate and, as well as making it difficult for parents with pushchairs and small children to get past, is also putting our children's lives at risk. If you see any cars parked in this way please let me have the registration details and I will contact Operation Crackdown. Operation Crackdown is a road safety initiative being run by Sussex Police and they guarantee to follow-up every report they receive about dangerous or anti-social driving.



Morning routines

I do have one or two requests to make in this Newsletter. The first is that parents should only ask to meet with teachers before school in the most exceptional circumstances. Teachers are extremely busy first thing in the morning and it is important that they have this time to prepare for the day ahead. Messages can be passed on to teachers via the School Office (office@st-marys-pulborough.w-sussex.sch.uk or 01798 872007) or I am happy to meet with parents myself. Please feel free to come and see me at any time from 8.00am onwards. There should be no need for parents to follow children into the building in the morning to help them hang up coats as they are all perfectly capable of doing this for themselves. It is important that they develop some independence and this is a good way to start. Children should not be entering the building via the main door, but should be waiting in the playground for the whistle to blow. Please do not bring your children in to school before 8.30am as there are no staff available to watch them. If you do have to, they must wait in the Office until 8.30, not go onto the playground or to their classes.



Science and DT at the Weald School

There has been a lot going on at school in the last month. Children from South Africa and Japan classes have visited The Weald School to take part in some exciting science and DT lessons. They have learned how to use Bunsen burners safely and how to use microscopes and prepare their own slides. They have also taken part in investigations about separating materials, reversible and irreversible changes, condensation and evaporation. In DT they made savoury muffins which were no doubt enjoyed by all.

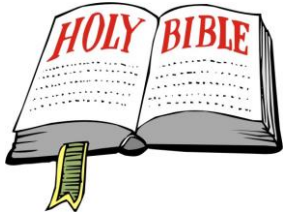


PE Kit



My second request is for children to have their PE kit in school every day and for everything to be clearly named. All children are expected to have PE kit in school and take part in PE. If you feel that your child is unable to take part, this needs to be discussed with me beforehand. In general, if a child is well enough to be in school then they are deemed to be well enough to take part in PE. This also applies to Forest School.

New Bibles



We are very grateful to Rob Aylott, a friend of St Mary's, for his kind donation of 60 new Bibles. They have been given to our new starters in UK and Austria classes. I am sure they will be much appreciated.

Multi-Sports

On two separate occasions children have visited The Weald to take part in Multi-Sports activities. The first group were chosen from Mexico, South Africa and Japan classes. The second group was the whole of New Zealand class. On both occasions children from St Mary's had the opportunity to try out new sports and develop both their sporting and teambuilding skills by working alongside children from seven other schools in the locality. After the event Maddalena wrote, "It was a really good experience because they taught you how to run properly and taught you how to work as a team and I would definitely go again." Hazel's response was, "Thank you so much for inviting me to the Weald to do sports. It really helped me to improve my sporting abilities and meet new friends. I learnt how to throw a rugby ball correctly and push my ability to a higher level. Thank you massively!" You will be glad to hear that our children's behaviour was exemplary and they proved to be excellent ambassadors for St Mary's.



Other sporting events in the first half of term have included a number of football and rugby fixtures. We are very proud of all the children who have represented us and are always pleased to listen to their match reports in our whole school assemblies.

Year 5 Residential



One of the highlights of the first half term has certainly been the Year Five residential trip to Marchant's Hill. Once again the children's behaviour was excellent. They enjoyed a wide range of activities that we are unable to offer at St Mary's, including raft building, quad biking, zip wire, aeroball, climbing and archery. The giant swing and abseiling were a challenge to many. Well done to everyone who had a go at activities that they had never tried before

and especially those who overcame any early fears. Special thanks to the staff who accompanied the children on this trip; Mr Partis, Miss McElduff, Mrs Copus, Mrs Hancock, Mrs Haley-Chattaway and Mrs Sherlock-Fudge. There is a Residential Reunion meeting for Yr 5 parents on Tuesday November 17 at 7.00pm when you can hear tales and see photos of what they got up to!

Happy Book Assembly

We have also had our first Happy Book Assembly for the year. Congratulations to all those children who received certificates; there were over 60 in total and it was a real pleasure to read each one out individually in front of the whole school.

Five children have earned Vine Leaves so far this term. The Vine Leaves reflect the Christian values of the school and are awarded to children who demonstrate those values. They are Evie-Rae, Tilly and Caitlin from Sierra Leone class and Kitty-Mae and Emma from USA class.



Children in Need – 13 November

Children in Need takes place on Friday 13th November and the theme is Superheroes. As a school we will be supporting this year's event and for a donation of £1, children may come to school in their own clothes. Many children have already said they want to wear pyjamas and some will be coming as superheroes.



Anti-Bullying Week



The week beginning Monday 16th November is Anti-Bullying Week. This will include a whole school assembly led by the School Council, poster competitions and other activities throughout the week to highlight the importance of sharing concerns so that they can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fayre

There will be another non-uniform day on Friday 20 November in aid of the PTA Christmas Fayre. The children are asked to bring in either chocolates or a bottle of booze for the Tombolas, in exchange they may wear whatever they wish, no themes for this one!



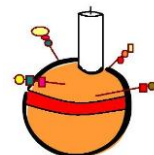
PTA Christmas Fayre



This takes place on Friday 27 November from 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Do come and support our PTA, refreshments will be available all evening, plus there will be a barbecue. The infant choir will be singing at the beginning. There will be lots of stalls for both adults and the children, lucky ticket, raffles and there is a rumour that a certain seasonal gentleman will be paying a visit.....

Christingle

On Friday 27th everyone in school will be making Christingles to mark the beginning of Advent. The Christingle oranges will be taken to the church for the Christingle service. This takes place on Sunday 29 November at 3.00pm in St Mary's Church. Do come along and join the fun!



Advent Calendar Collection



A collection is being made of Advent calendars which will be given to the Food Bank for distribution. Evie-Rae (SL) is the guiding force behind this and we hope that other children will follow her in this enterprise. Children may bring calendars to any of our school assemblies and place them in the collection box. All calendars need to be received by the morning of Friday 20 November, ready for collection that day.