



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



NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01798 872007

January 2016

Welcome back

I hope you all had a peaceful and happy Christmas. I would like to welcome 4 new children this term, Ryan and Jack in Reception, Gracie in Year One and George in Year Three.

Library News

We were delighted to receive 30 copies of 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' from Sainsbury's. This lovely book will be enjoyed especially by children in Years One and Two. Also, many thanks to Cezara (Yr 6) who has donated a large box of books that will shortly be placed in the school library.

Sainsbury's

Weather Warning



As the weather is turning so much colder and there is a risk of ice on the playground, please could everyone be extra careful. When we discover ice on the playground a 'salt path' will be prepared from the gate across the front playground to the main school and then around the outside of the school to the back playground. The 'salt path' will then go straight across the back playground to the doors opposite USA classroom.

Please make sure that you and your children remain on the prepared path. Although playing on the ice may seem tempting, it does carry a significant risk of falling over and getting hurt. The children have all been warned about the dangers and told to stay away from icy patches on the playground. Please also be aware that the public pavements may also be icy and extra care needs to be taken. As a school we are not allowed to put salt on public pavements.



Greek Day

Children in Mexico, South Africa and Japan classes enjoyed their Ancient Greek day on Monday 11th January. The children all came to school dressed in togas and took part in lots of activities including making clay pots and cooking and eating a Greek banquet, with lamb koftas, tzatziki and pitta bread. In the afternoon, they took part in 'Olympic Games'. Many thanks to all the staff for organising such an exciting range of activities for the children to enjoy and to parents and children for finding suitable costumes.



Greek Day

Pulborough Youth Club



This has now re-opened on a Wednesday evening between 4.30 and 6.00pm. The Club is run by Ben Sheldon and is open to young people between the ages of 10 and 16 years. The cost of attending is £1.00 per session. Ben has also told us that he is currently looking for additional staff to help him run the club. Please contact Ben at the Club on a Wednesday evening for information or see the poster in the display board in the playground for further details.

Help for Heroes Cake Sale



This took place on Wednesday 13th January. It was organised by children in Year 5 and raised over £100. Very well done and thank you to everyone in KS2 who supported them.

A further cake sale is being planned for children in Reception and KS1, with profits going to Cancer Research UK. This will take place at break time on Wednesday 10 February – please look out for posters around the school nearer the time.



Car Parking



Yet another plea to ask you to be careful about where you park when dropping off or collecting children from school. If you see cars parked partly on the pavement, on the yellow zigzag lines or blocking driveways, please either contact Operation Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.org.uk) or pass the registration numbers on to the school. I would also ask that parents do **not** use the entrance to the school car park as a dropping off point or turning area. Again this poses a threat to children's safety and persistent offenders will be reported to Operation Crackdown.

Head lice

Once again we seem to be attracting more than our fair share of head lice and we really do appreciate your co-operation in dealing with this problem. Regular wet-combing with conditioner helps to catch these creatures and also discourages them from breeding. I would ask that you check your child's hair at least twice a week and if you see live lice or nits (the eggs) please treat your child. They do not need to be kept off school if they have head lice. Please also ensure that if your child has hair that is longer than shoulder length, it is tied back, either in a pony-tail or plait. There are many websites which contain useful information for treating this problem, and I would recommend www.nhs.uk. Paper copies of the information from this website are available from the School Office.



Bikeability Week –Year 6



This will take place during the week beginning February 8. Information has been sent out to children in Year 6 regarding this. Please read everything carefully and make sure that you sign and return **BOTH** slips (leaflet and school) to the School Office.

Scarlet Fever

We have had several cases of scarlet fever in the school, both last term and this term. The symptoms of scarlet fever include a **sore throat**, **headache**, high temperature (38.3C/101F) or above), flushed face and **swollen** tongue. The distinctive pink-red **rash** develops 12 to 48 hours later. It is treated with antibiotics. Once the child has had 24 hours of antibiotics they may return to school. If you are worried that your child may have this disease, please ring your doctor who will advise you.

Dates for your diaries

I realise that it is a few weeks off, but whole class photographs will be taken on Wednesday 3 February. I would be grateful if you could make sure that your children are wearing sweatshirts, preferably school sweatshirts, and that the girls with hair that is shoulder-length or longer have their hair tied back on that day. Please also ensure that any hair ties are dark blue or white and do not involve huge bows and ribbons. If you wish to purchase new school uniform, School Togs will be in the playground after school on Wednesday 20 January.



Playground access

From now on we will be keeping the front pedestrian gate closed until 8.30am when it will be opened by the teacher on duty. This is because a number of the older children have been arriving early and going straight round to the back playground where they are unsupervised. Children's safety is always our first priority, but we are unable to supervise either playground before 8.30am.



Fairtrade Fortnight

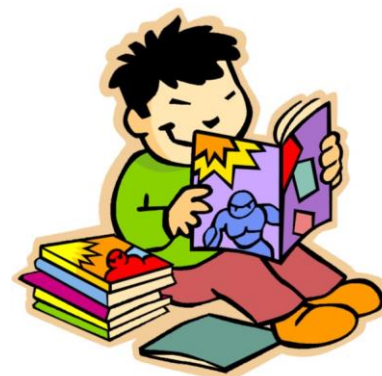


This starts on Monday 29 February and will run for two weeks. Mr Partis will be leading a whole school assembly to introduce Fairtrade, as well as organising a Fairtrade Breakfast. Further details of this will be sent out nearer the time.

Book Week

This year's Book Week will begin with an opportunity to purchase books from our travelling book fair on Friday 26 February. Steyning Book Shop has kindly agreed to bring a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for children of all ages. Please put this date in your diaries and come along to support the school.

Book week will continue through the following week and will include many fun activities to encourage children to read and to help them realise that reading really can be a pleasure. On Thursday 3 March we will celebrate World Book Day and the children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and on Friday 4 March we will be visited by not one, but two published authors! Giles Paley-Phillips (*'THE FEARSOME BEASTIE'* (Maverick Arts Publishing) won *The People's Book Prize 2012*, *'TAMARA SMALL AND THE MONSTERS' BALL'*) will work with all children in Reception and KS1, while Samantha Watkins (*Get Happy*, *The Locust of Focused*) will be working with KS2. There will be an opportunity at the end of the day to buy signed copies of books by these authors.



Class Assemblies

As this term is so short, we will be holding some class assemblies on Mondays and Thursdays, as well as the usual Fridays. Please look on the school website for details of when your child's class will be holding their assembly. There will be a whole school Eucharist on Thursday 11 February at 9.00am. All are welcome.



Grounds Working Party – 5 March



With Spring around the corner – we hope – there will be plenty to do to get the school grounds looking their best. Please put Saturday 5 March in your diary and come and join us here at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome, even if you can only spare an hour, every little bit helps, so please come along as you can make a real difference to our children's outdoor learning environment. There will be more details sent out nearer the time.

Texts from school

May I recommend to you the School Gateway app. The School Gateway Parent App is the essential tool to keep parents informed about what's going on at school. It keeps everything in one place, behind one login. School Gateway is a free app for parents to download onto their Android or iOS device. It is also accessible via the website <http://schoolcomms.com/parent-app/>. We anticipate being able to use more of their options in the future, such as online payment, etc.



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Once again, we will be collecting these vouchers from Sainsbury's. Please ask friends and family for any vouchers that they don't want – the more, the merrier! The vouchers will be available from 27 January and we will have a collecting box in the Front Office.

