



# NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01798 872007

March 2017

## Local Authority Visit



I am delighted to tell you that we had a visit from our senior Local Authority Adviser this week; she has confirmed that teaching and learning across the whole school is at least good and much of it is outstanding. Early Years is outstanding, teachers' questioning and challenging of more able pupils is outstanding and our provision for SEN pupils is outstanding. The children did us proud – they were able to talk clearly and freely about their learning. Well done, everyone!

## Film Night

Last Tuesday saw our termly Film Night, organised by the PTA. Both KS1 and KS2 watched 'Trolls' and very much enjoyed it. Thank you to the PTA for organising this.



## Race Night



Thank you very much for all of the raffle prizes donated for the Year 6 Big Top Fundraising Race Night, organised by Mr and Mrs Allfrey. It was a loud, fun-packed evening, with more than 90 people crowded into the School Hall. Thank you for your incredible generosity and help. It was a great night and a lot of fun, and we raised just over £900.00 for the Big Top and Production fund. Thank you also to those local companies who sponsored the races: Artisan Construction, Comyn & James, Robert Dyas, Kew Electrical and Pulborough Village Market.

## Mobile phone no / email updates

Please could I ask that the school is kept informed if you change your mobile phone no or email address? It is vital that we have up-to-date contact details for parents / relatives for the children in school in case of emergency.



## School reports



You should all have received your children's school report for this year by now. Please return the final sheet of the report; it is very helpful if you can write your comments on your children's learning and progress in the box provided.

## **Scooters and bikes**

Several children have been bringing their scooters and bikes to school and leaving them in the bike park. Please make sure that they are not left near the blue railings at the front and side of the bike park as it is easy for them to be lifted up and over the railings from there. Unfortunately a couple of scooters have been taken from the bike park over the past few weeks, please be vigilant if you see anyone behaving suspiciously in that area.



## **Parents' Evening appointments**

The letters have now been sent out for this term's Parents' Evenings. Please return your form by Friday 24 March at the latest; appointments will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

## **PTA Quiz Night**



The PTA are organising a Quiz Night to be held on Friday 31 March in the School Hall. Tickets are £7.50 per head, which will include a ploughman's supper. There can be a maximum of 6 people per team. Grab your friends, think of a great team name and join us for an evening of beneficent brain-bashing!

## **Henry Adams bookmark competition**

Earlier this term, as part of our World Book Day celebrations, the children at St Mary's CE Primary School in Pulborough took part in a Bookmark Designing Competition with Henry Adams, Storrington.

Using any materials they wished the children were asked to design and make a bookmark. The infant children were asked to draw their favourite book character while the juniors had the choice of either recommending their favourite book or author or extolling the merits of avid reading, encouraging their peers to pick up a book and read, read, read; designs were to be colourful and eye-catching with a little bit of imagination too; 'Try to be a bit different' was the message given!

Hattie Coates, partner from Henry Adams' office in Storrington and Dee Tickner, their Community Liaison Coordinator, were delighted to attend a school assembly to present the winning children with their prizes of a book and a Henry Adams rosette, while every child who took part was awarded a certificate of thanks from Henry Adams.

Hattie adds, "We were amazed to discover that 189 children had taken part in our competition and the results were very creative. We had a great time looking through all the bookmarks and choosing the winners. We'd like to say a huge 'thank you' from Henry Adams to all the talented children in St Mary's School for taking part with such enthusiasm." Congratulations to Rocco, Luna, Hattie, Amelie, Mae, Holly, Luca, James, Rebecca, Evelyn, Maisie, Paige and Ellen.



## **World Book Day**

World Book Day was certainly celebrated in style here at St Mary's with some really imaginative costumes. Children also enjoyed listening to teachers reading from their own favourite books and from sharing books with their buddies in other classes. Thank you to all those parents who assisted with their child's costume.



## **Mothering Sunday**



This year, Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 26 March. There will be a service in St Mary's Church to celebrate at 10.30am – do come along and bring your mother. A posy will be given to every mother at the service.

## **Fairtrade Fortnight**

As a Fairtrade School, we enjoyed celebrating and raising awareness of the importance of this foundation during Fairtrade Fortnight. We began with an assembly where we considered the difference between local produce and produce from around the world and began to think about the work that Fairtrade does in ensuring that farmers not only get a good price for the work that they do but also that they are given decent working conditions and fairer terms of trade.



Following on from this, the children in each class enjoyed participating in different lessons on Fairtrade, focusing on this year's theme which was 'Put Fairtrade In Your Break'. It was lovely to see the work that children were doing across the school, with UK Class making food from Fairtrade ingredients at Forest Schools and many other classes creating Fairtrade logos and learning about the work that the foundation does all around the world. We were also very grateful to Tesco's in Pulborough who provided each of the children in the school with a Fairtrade snack!

## **Grounds Working Party**

I would like to pass on a really big thank you to all those parents and children, staff, ex-pupils and Governors who joined us for our Grounds Working Party. Mr Bradbury had compiled a long list of jobs that needed to be done and we were able to surprise him by completing every one of them! The Reception Garden has had a complete make-over, the Willow Dome has been re-planted and trimmed, the build-up of mud and winter debris has been cleared from the front playground, the area around the swimming pool, including the fencing, has been swept and tidied in readiness for



the children's swimming lessons next term, the blue fencing has been scrubbed clean, the poly-tunnel has been cleared and is now ready for our next gardening project, the Forest School has been tidied, St Mary's Prayer Garden has had its spring clean and the three raised flower beds have been removed and the soil transferred to the far side of the field!!!!!! Much of the really heavy work of moving soil was made possible by the help of the Billingshurst Lions who came along with their wheelbarrows, spades and, most of all, their muscle power. A special thank you to all of them. You will be glad to know that the morning was not all work – we also made time to enjoy a tea-break which included home-made scones and brownies (courtesy of Mrs Russell) and chocolate biscuits.

## **Baby news**

Congratulations are also sent to Mr Rogers and his wife, Faye, who are expecting their first baby in the early summer. Mr Rogers will be taking two weeks' paternity leave, but it is too early to give you exact dates for that just yet.



## **Swimming Success**

Congratulations to our Champion Swimmers who represented St Mary's at the Lions' Swimarathon. Our team of five (Raphael, Sophia, Isabella, Paige and Ella) completed 110 lengths of the pool in just 55 minutes. Even before the event they had managed to raise over £300 in sponsorship money and we are hoping that that total will increase once more people hear about their great achievement. Remember that half of the money raised will go to the Lions' Charity and the other half will go to WaterAid, which is the international charity our children have chosen to support this year.



## **Vine Leaves**



Very special congratulations go to the following children who have been awarded Vine Leaves; Joshua L, Reggie, Amelie and Merry. These leaves are only awarded for exceptional acts of kindness, generosity or any other of our Christian values. You will have seen from the front office display that the value we are looking at currently is 'compassion'; every child in the school is contributing to a display showing 'compassion falling like confetti'.

Please come in and read the very moving things your children have written on this subject.

## **Eco-Council Update**

A very big thank you to everyone who took the time to enter the Living Streets badge design competition earlier this month. We were very impressed with the fantastic ideas and creativity that were shown in the children's designs on this year's theme 'Walk the Americas.' Congratulations to Isla C, Isla K, Evie, Kristof, Georgie, Jack K, Caitlin, Maddie and Sophie J who were voted class winners. The Eco-Council have voted on three overall winners whose designs will be entered into the Living Streets competition. Evie, Kristof and Maddie's designs were chosen to represent the school in the national competition.



We are lucky enough to have some representatives from Wastebusters visiting the school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March to lead an assembly on the importance of recycling. The Wastebuster team will have an information table on the playground from 8:30am – please do come and visit them before school and have a chat about the work that they do. Members of the Eco-Council will also have the chance to attend an eco-session with the Wastebuster team after the assembly. We are very much looking forward to their visit. The Eco-Council will be launching a new competition in school following on from this assembly – further details to follow soon!

## **Behaviour in school**



Your child may also have told you that we are getting stricter with the standard of behaviour we expect to see, both in class and on the playground. As a school we don't have a great many rules but those we do have are very clear and are there to keep everyone safe and happy. The underlying principle is that you treat others as you would want to be treated yourself. Thank you also to everyone for supporting the school with our policy of zero tolerance of bad language. I am having to remind fewer and fewer children that certain words they might hear on TV or in the street are not to be repeated in school. Children come to school to learn many things, but bad language is not one of them.

## Competitions

It has certainly been a busy time for our young artists with opportunities to join in the Peace Poster competition run by the Lions, the Christmas Stamp competition run by the Royal Mail and the Design a Badge competition run by the Living Streets charity. We will let you know the results of each of these competitions later on in the term.



## School Uniform



Thank you to all those parents who are now making sure that children come into school wearing the correct school uniform, including shoes rather than trainers, and for keeping hair ribbons and bows discreet and in the school colours. As the summer approaches, please remember that open-toed sandals are not appropriate in school because of the risk of toes being accidentally trodden on. We really don't want any of the children to hurt themselves. May I remind you that it makes our lives much easier if **all** uniform is named, especially if it is second-hand and has been named by someone else!



## Swimming lessons



I am delighted to let you know that the new swimming pool boilers will be in place before the beginning of next term's swimming lessons. We are so lucky to have this resource on site and are extremely grateful to all the people and groups which have helped us in our fund-raising efforts. The swimming timetable will be sent out shortly – if you are able to help with supervision, please sign up. You do not have to help in your child's class, so please consider helping with other classes. Unfortunately, due to legislation, we cannot allow younger siblings in the pool area if you are helping. Any child with hair of shoulder length or longer will be required to wear a swimming hat. Unfortunately

## Comic Relief – 24 March

We will be taking part in Comic Relief again this year, which is on Friday 24 March. The children may come into school wearing red clothes, but we ask that they do not have face paints or red hair dye. There have been instances of allergic reactions to these things and we do not wish anyone to feel unwell. If your child would like to come into school in red home clothes, we ask for a donation of £1 for Comic Relief.



## Easter Eucharist – 6 April



The final Eucharist of this term will take place on Thursday 6 April at 9.00am. All are welcome, and we look forward to welcoming you to our service of celebration.

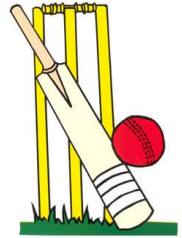
## Easter Eggstravaganza – 7 April

The last day of term will be filled with fun and frolics as we celebrate our annual Easter Eggstravaganza. There will be more details nearer the time, but the children will be invited to decorate an egg (hard-boiled, please!) or an Easter bonnet and there will be many egg-themed events for all classes throughout the day.



## **Cricket coaching**

West Chiltington & Thakeham Cricket Club has its registration evening on 31st March 2017 from 17:00 in the Pavilion on Mill Road, West Chiltington. They run cricket for boys and girls from Under 5 (Reception) to adult. Coaching for children under 14 is on Friday nights. Children from all over the area come and learn the game with a smile on their faces whilst the parents enjoy some food and drink, relaxing after a hard week! An increasing number of parents are working at home on Fridays and are able to contribute to the coaching too. If your son/daughter would like to have a go, please feel free to go to this registration event.



## **PE Kit**



Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school during the week. Although PE lessons are timetabled, it is occasionally necessary to re-schedule them and the children are very disappointed if they are unable to take part due to their PE kit not being in school. **All** children should have plimsolls or trainers, shorts and a T-shirt for PE.