



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



NEWSLETTER

A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

Telephone: 01798 872007

September 2015

Welcome back everyone.

First of all, a big 'thank you' for making me feel so welcome during my first week at St Mary's. I was met by a sea of smiling faces from both children and parents. I will endeavour to learn people's names and to match children with their parents but please do not be offended if it takes me a while. With nearly 400 children it will be quite a challenge.



Welcome new pupils, not only in our two Reception classes but also throughout the school.

Reception Tea Party



As the new Reception children came to the end of their first week at St Mary's they celebrated with a lovely outdoor tea party. Many thanks to Mrs Callender and Mrs Huntley-Hart for arranging this and to the group of parents who came along to help with the refreshments.

Christian Value for this term

Our Christian value for this half term is HOPE. Our first Whole School Assembly focused on the story of Noah's Ark and God's promise to Noah that the great flood would be followed by a time of HOPE and new beginnings. The children talked about some of their own hopes for the coming year.



Library Books



I would also like to say thank you to the PTA whose generosity this term has already enabled us to spend over £750 on books for our Key Stage Two fiction library. Do please talk to your child about what they are reading and encourage them to read as often as they possibly can.

Whether they like fiction or non-fiction, we now have such a wide selection that there must be something to appeal to everyone. Teachers are also now sharing their favourite books with the children and these will shortly be on display in the Key Stage Two reading area.

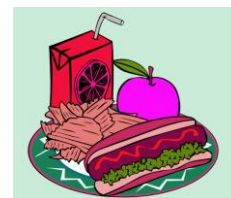
New microphones



Thanks also to Andy Heath who has kindly donated three microphones to the school. We look forward to seeing these in action at our productions throughout the year.

Midday Meals Supervisors required

Due to unexpected staff changes we are currently looking to appoint some more midday meals supervisors. If you have an hour or so to spare in the middle of the day and would like to help make children's lunchtimes more enjoyable then please contact the school office for further details.



Front playground



We will shortly be installing a small fence at the bottom of the front playground in order to clearly separate the playground from the flowerbed. In the meantime please could you help us by ensuring that your child keeps off the flowerbed both before school starts and at the end of the school day. This will enable the shrubs in that flowerbed to become fully established and eventually provide a screen between the

road and the children's play area. Could I also remind you all that the pencil fence is not safe enough for children to climb on and we really don't want anyone to get hurt.

School and class assemblies

I know that many of you look forward to joining us for both Class Assemblies and whole school events such as the Harvest Eucharist. In order to give staff and children a few more minutes to prepare themselves for these special events they will now be starting at 9.00am, rather than at 8.50am. However, you will be welcome to come into the hall at any time from 8.45am. Class teachers will notify you when their celebration assembly is coming up and will endeavour to give you plenty of warning so that you can attend.



Hair decorations



ZFH000006-0403

Size: 1.0 - 2.0 cm

I have noticed a number of children coming to school wearing elaborate hair decorations. Whilst these are certainly very lovely, they are not appropriate for school and I would ask that children who need to tie their hair back use discreet hair bands, clips or ribbons in either blue or black. On a similar note, please could I remind you that children with pierced ears should only be wearing small stud earrings at school. This is mainly for health and safety

purposes as large earrings, particularly hoops, can lead to unpleasant accidents. If possible children should not wear earrings at all on days when they have a PE lesson. If earrings must be worn the children themselves must be able to either remove them or cover them with tape. Staff are not allowed to help children with this and the school is not able to provide the tape.



Second hand uniform

A reminder that we do have a selection of good quality second-hand uniform available for sale. If you have items that you would like to sell, or if you are interested in making a purchase, the person you need to talk to is Emma Jolliffe. Her contact details are available from the School Office.



Working Party – 19 September



You will already have received a letter about the School Grounds Working Party which will take place on 19th September. From organising similar events at my previous school I know how much can be achieved when everyone comes together to share both their experience and their energy! Hopefully the weather will be fine and we will manage to complete lots of outdoor projects that will make the school grounds an even better place where children can learn and play. As usual a BBQ lunch will be provided. This is a really good opportunity to meet other parents in an informal environment. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and am even going to invest in a new pair of wellington boots! (The children will understand why this is quite a special event for me)

Scarecrow competition and Harvest Fayre – 26th September

A reminder that this year's Harvest Fayre takes place on 26th September on the East Glebe Field and will, as usual, include a scarecrow competition. The programmes will be given to the children on Monday. Do encourage your child to take part in this fun event. I am looking forward to seeing lots of entries from children at St Mary's and have no doubt that they will be highly creative and most original. Please take your finished scarecrow direct to the Harvest Fayre at 9.00am on the day of the Fayre.



Meet the Teacher



One date that I hope you have already put in your diary is Wednesday 16th September when we have our 'Meet the Teacher' evening at 7.00pm. This is an opportunity to meet the team for this year and to spend some time with your child's class teacher, finding out more about what your children will be learning. This date has been changed from 17th September, so please amend your diaries.

.Mr Rogers' 'Long Walk'



At the start of the summer holidays Mr Rogers (Sierra Leone class teacher) took part in the Oxfam Trailwalker fundraising event. The Trailwalker is an endurance challenge where teams of four walk 100km across the South Downs in under 30 hours. It took Mr Rogers, in a team with his uncle and cousin, 24 hours and 10 minutes to complete the course. They started on Saturday morning at 10am in Petersfield and finished just after 10am on Sunday in the pouring rain at Brighton Racecourse. Mr Rogers said it was a fantastic experience for an excellent cause and



was delighted to have raised £1500 for Oxfam and The Gurkha Welfare trust. He hasn't ruled out doing it again, but might give his knee and blisters a bit of a rest next year! For more information on the challenge, go to <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker/the-challenge>

School Photographs



On Wednesday 23 September, Tempest Photography will be coming to take individual and family group photographs. I am sorry, but we cannot accommodate younger siblings in these photographs as there isn't time. Please make sure your child is wearing clean uniform for this.

An invitation from Time Out for Dads / Who Let The Dads Out

Time Out for Dads is a group for fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles to engage with their primary school age children. It returns this term with a family (including mum) car treasure hunt on Sunday 4th October, departing at 3.00pm. The cost is £5 per family including a BBQ at the end, based at St Mary's School. Please email the address below to book your place.

Who Let the Dads Out meet on the second Saturday of each month at 9.00am in the Rother Hall, Pulborough Village Hall. We aim to engage the male members of the family with their pre-school children. We start with a light breakfast, followed by crafts, singing and song time.



If you would like more information on either of these groups please email timeout4dads@gmail.com , visit www.wholetthedadsout.org.uk or pick up a leaflet in the school office.

Thank you once again for making my first week at St Mary's so enjoyable. It is a real privilege to be taking over the reins from Mrs Heath and I am genuinely looking forward to working with staff, pupils, parents and governors this year and well into the future.

Joanna Brown

Calendar

Please see the following pages for this year's calendar. Dates on this may change, but you will be informed of any changes as they occur.



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

PARENTS - School Dates for the Academic Year 2015-2016

Date:	Time:	Event:
AUTUMN TERM 2015		
CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS HALF TERM: HOPE		
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 16 th September	7.00pm	Meet the Teacher
Saturday 19 th September	9.00am – 3.00pm	Grounds Working Party
Monday 28 th September		Clubs begin this week
Wed 23 rd September	9.00am	School Photographs (Family & Individual)
Saturday 26 th September		Harvest Fayre - Scarecrow Competition
Wednesday 30 th September	7.00pm	Year 5 residential meeting
OCTOBER		
Thursday 1 st October	8.50am to 9.45pm	School Eucharist – Harvest – Parents welcome
Thursday 1 st October	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Tea & Chat for parents – Reading, Writing & supporting your children at home
21 st October	9.00am – 10.30am	For new Reception Children's parents – introducing local services available to support you and your child
TBC		PTA Craft Fayre
19 th to 23 rd October	All week	Year 5 Residential week at Marchants Hill
Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October		HALF TERM
NOVEMBER		
CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS HALF TERM: FRIENDSHIP		
Tuesday 3 rd November	6.30pm to 8.30pm	Open Evening
Thursday 5 th November	9.00 – 9.45am	School Eucharist – All Saints – Parents welcome
Wednesday 4 th November	9.00am	Breakfast Tea and Chat 9am CMW
Wednesday 4 th to Wednesday 25 th November	2.30pm to 3.00pm	Open Surgery each Wednesday – please book an appointment
Friday 13 th November		Non Uniform Day - Children In Need Fund Raising Event and Bring items for PTA Christmas Fayre – Superhero day!

Tuesday 17 th November	7.00pm	Year 5 Residential Feed Back Meeting
16 th – 20 th November		Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 27 th November	6.00pm to 8.00pm	PTA Christmas Fayre
Friday 27 th November		Children to make Christingles
DECEMBER		
Tuesday 1st December		PASADA begins
Friday 11 th December		School Clubs finish
TBC	Afternoon rehearsal & Evening Performance – times tbc	School Choir singing at Arundel Cathedral with the Arun Choral Society – Christmas Concert
Sunday 29 th November	3.00pm	Christingle Service – Church – all welcome
Monday 7 th December	2.00pm	Reception Christmas Play
Tuesday 8 th December	6.00pm	Reception Christmas Play
TBC		Junior Choir singing
Wednesday 9 th December	1.45pm	Key Stage 1 Christmas Production
Thursday 10 th December	6.00pm	Key Stage 1 Christmas Production
Friday 11 th December	6.00pm	Key Stage 1 Christmas Production
Tuesday 15 th December	2.00pm	Team Party
Wednesday 16 th December	9.30am	Pantomime
- tbc	KS1 - 6.00pm to 7.00pm KS2 – 7.15pm to 8.30pm	School Disco
Thursday 17 th December	9.00am	School Eucharist - Advent/Christmas
Friday 18 th December		LAST DAY OF TERM
Friday 18 th December	6.00pm	Led By a Star – Village Event – details to follow
SPRING TERM 2016		
CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS HALF TERM: HUMILITY		
JANUARY		
Monday 4 th January 2016		INSET DAY
Tuesday 5 th January		BACK TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 12 th January	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Tea and Chat 2 – 3pm – Handwriting for parents TP/SC
Date to be confirmed		School Photographs – Classes
Monday 18 th January		School Clubs start this week
FEBRUARY		
Tuesday 9 th February		Shrove Tuesday events
Thursday 11 th February		Ash Wednesday School Eucharist – parents welcome
Mon 15 th to Fri 19th Feb		HALF TERM
Monday 22 nd February		INSET DAY
CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS HALF TERM: SERVICE		
22 February to 07 March 2016		Fairtrade Fortnight
MARCH		
Thursday 3rd March	All day	World Book Day – Book Character Fancy Dress
Friday 4 th March	2.00pm – 3.15pm	Fairtrade Tea Party
Saturday 5th March	9.00am to 4.00pm	Grounds Working Party
Wednesday 9 th March	9.00am to 10.30am	Tea & Chat – Behaviour for Learning
Wednesday 9 th March	3.30pm to 4.00pm	Year 4 – Lodge Hill Parent Information Meeting
Friday 11 th March		School Reports go home
Tuesday 15 th March	3.30pm to 6.00pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 17 th March	6.00pm to 8.30pm	Parents Evening
Wednesday 23 rd March		Year 3 & 4 Easter Play in School
Friday 4 th March	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Fairtrade Afternoon Tea – Parents and Grandparents welcome
Friday 18 th March		School Clubs Finish
Monday 21 st March/22 nd March		Year 4 Sleepover – Lodge Hill
Wednesday 23 rd March	2.00pm	Team Party
TBC	KS1 - 6.00pm to 7.00pm KS2 – 7.15pm to 8.30pm	School Disco
Thursday 24 th March	8.50am	School Eucharist – Easter – parents welcome

Thursday 24 th March		Easter Eggstravaganza activities day
Thursday 24 th March		LAST DAY OF TERM
SUMMER TERM 2016	CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS	
APRIL	HALF TERM:	
	PERSEVERANCE	
Monday 11 th April		BACK TO SCHOOL
Wednesday 13 th April	3.30pm	SAT's Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents
Wednesday 13 th April	3.30pm	Year 6 Residential Information Meeting
Monday 25 th April		School Clubs begin
MAY		
Wednesday 4 th May	3.30pm	Phonics Information Meeting for Year 1 Parents
Wednesday 25 th May	7.00pm	New Parents Information Meeting
Monday 9 th May – 13 th May		Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 13 th June		KS1 Parent meeting about SATs
Monday 13 th June		Year 1 Phonics tests commence at school
Monday 16 th May – 20 th May		Year 6 Residential – Little Canada, Isle of Wight
Monday 16 th May		KS1 SATS
Thursday 26 th May	8.50am	School Eucharist – Ascension Day – parents welcome
Monday 30 th - 3 rd June		HALF TERM
JUNE	CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS HALF TERM:	COURAGE
Tuesday 14 th June	1.00pm	Key Stage 1 Sports Day
Thursday 16 th June	1.00pm	Key Stage 2 Sports Day
Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th June		Walk Around Week for new Reception Children & Parents
Tuesday 21 st June	1.00pm	Reserve Key Stage 1 Sports Day (only if first day cancelled due to weather)
Thursday 23 rd June	1.00pm	Reserve Key Stage 2 Sports Day (only if first day cancelled due to weather)
Thursday 23 rd June	7.00pm	Year 6 Residential Feed Back Meeting
Monday 27 th June		Visit week for new Reception Children

Tuesday 28 th June	3.30pm to 6.00pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 30 th June	6.00pm to 8.30pm	Parents' Evening
JULY		
Friday 1 st July		Clubs finish
Monday 4 th July		Art Week
Friday 1st July		School Clubs to finish
Tuesday 12 th July	1.00pm	Key Stage 2 School Production – Matinee
Tuesday 12 th July	6.00pm	Key Stage 2 School Production
Thursday 14 th July	6.00pm	Key Stage 2 School Production
Friday 15 th July	6.00pm	Key Stage 2 School Production
Saturday 16 th July	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Ball
Sunday 17 th July - tbc		Summer Fete
Wednesday 13 th July	2.00pm	Team Party
Friday 15 th July		Letters about Classes for Sept 2016 go home
Monday 18 th July		Children visit new classes for the afternoon
TBC	KS1 - 6.00pm to 7.00pm KS2 – 7.15pm to 8.30pm	School Disco
Tuesday 19 th July	2.00pm	Leavers' Service – St Mary's Church, Pulborough All Welcome
Thursday 21 st July	9.15am	Final Assembly – Year 6 to lead – Year 6 parents welcome
Thursday 21 st July		LAST DAY OF TERM
Friday 22 nd July		INSET DAY