



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

2nd March

Dear Parents/Carers

Brrr...! At the end of a very chilly spell I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and support in responding to the need for sudden last minute changes to schedules and uniforms as a result of the weather!

World Book Day & The Year of Prayer

Thanks to one and all who took part in our many activities marking World Book Day and the Year of Prayer. The day generated an awful lot of excitement about books – children dressing up as book characters, searching all over the school for the clues about staff's Bible heroes and answering some clever questions about books in Mr Ellis' House Quiz.

Year R took part in many exciting activities including making and arming their own Goliath as well as reenacting the story of his defeat by David.

Other children were introduced to Bible journaling with different classes each taking a key Bible story as their focus, these included: Esther, Jonah, Moses, Noah and Daniel. While Year 6 undertook the retelling of the story of Joseph - creating their own storybooks. These stories also inspired many of them to write their own prayers too. Their resulting work appears very impressive.

Quiz Results

Congratulations to the plethora of families who managed to solve all 50 clues on the Family Book Quiz. The lucky family who answered all correctly and then had their name drawn from the hat were the Stone family (Evelyn in Year 6 and Rose in Year 3. Maya Coates (Year 6) won the Bible heroes prize.

If you're still feeling foxed and perplexed by either of the quizzes or are just intrigued to know - the answers are now on display in the school foyer.

'Bedtime' Stories

It was sad that we had to cancel the Bedtime Stories event as so many children were really looking forward to it. So as not to completely disappoint, the staff are going to end their day on Friday 9th March with bedtime stories in their classrooms from 2:45pm to the end of the day. The children will be able to bring a teddy and a dressing gown in to help them relax in some specially adapted classrooms with a much more homely feel! They can then also enjoy their promised hot chocolate and biccies!

Fairtrade Breakfast

FYI - Mrs Whiting has also rescheduled her Fairtrade Breakfast for Wednesday 7th March.

Don't forget there is a prize for the child in each class who has managed to collect the most stickers or cut out logos from packaging on their Banana Leaf at the end of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Mrs Cardenas

As mentioned at my State of Play meetings we have taken the decision to swap from Spanish to French lessons at St. Mary's. Mrs Cardenas' lessons will stop at Easter. However, she will be offering the chance for those children who are interested to continue with their Spanish studies through attending a lunchtime club – details to follow. In the meantime, I would like to thank Mrs Cardenas for all of the time she has committed to helping our children with their Spanish over the last two years. As we believe that by Easter we will have managed to provide more than our Modern Foreign Languages Teaching quota for this year, we shall be starting French lessons in earnest in September. I shall also be in touch regarding the provision of an after-school French club for the summer term as well. So watch this space.

Mrs Vind

Sarah Vind, one of our dedicated team of Midday Meals Supervisors is bringing her time at St. Mary's to an end this year. She will be leaving at Easter having given ten years of service to the school! However, she will be continuing to work behind the scenes with the HSA for the rest of the year. She is very keen that at least one parent volunteers to take on the organisation of the Junior Disco before her previous planning expertise is lost. So, if you have a child in Year 3 or 4 and would be willing to shadow or follow her lead through this summer's disco preparations, with a view to becoming the lead organiser for future incarnations of this event, we would be exceedingly grateful.

Midday Meals Supervisor

As Sarah Vind is departing I do of course need to replace her. If you are interested please do see our advert on the West Sussex County Council Jobs website.

ParentPay Direct Donations

I would love to express my gratitude to those of you who have already popped donations into our Friends Account. I am delighted to report that we have already had a few hundred pounds donated to date – this is amazing!

Bags of Support

Karrie Mellor from the bags of support organisation has confirmed that they picked up 282.5kg of re-usable textiles from our collection all of which will be well used or recycled. Thank you so much for your generosity, as a result of this the school will be credited with £141.25.

Office under pressure

Please do be aware that during the fortnight starting the 12th March the school office will be under a great deal of pressure as Mrs Fisher has been summoned for Jury Service and Mrs Sawyer will be out of school for personal reasons during some of this time too.

Jewellery Sale

I am delighted to hear of the ongoing endeavours of Lorelie and Poppy Uwins, Rosie Stone, Emily Malyon and Patrick Johnson. Their sale of beaded jewellery bracelets, necklaces and keyrings to raise money for The Friends of St. Mary's Fund will take place on Friday 16th March during breaktime. So if your child is interested in purchasing one of these items (or has indeed placed an order with them) please do send them in with 50p.

British Wheelchair Racer & Sports Relief

The week beginning 19th March is Sports Relief. However, we've organised a slightly different event this year from a sporting point of view. We have invited Lizzie Williams in to speak to the children about being a British Wheelchair racer. She is a local aspiring Paralympian suffering from Brittle Bone Disease.

She will be talking to the children encouraging them all not to put limited expectations on themselves for later life, seeking to challenge and inspire them to pursue their ambitions.

She is now a member of British Athletics Academy squad, training and competing internationally, and has her sights on selection for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. However, she is still self-funded and therefore as a school we would like to conduct a Run the Mile event asking the children for a donation of a £1 (or more) to donate to her fund as well as Sport Relief. We will run the event on Thursday 22nd March the date of Lizzie's visit. Please do send your children in with their trainers / plimsolls.

And finally

I think we can safely say that the children have really been living life to the full here at St. Mary's, despite the freezing temperatures. I hope this helps them to understand our promotion of the UNICEF Rights of the Child Article Number 6: Children have a right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.



Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

Please do make a note of these dates as reminders will not necessarily be sent.

March

- 3 HSA Quiz Night (Doors open @ 7.00pm)
- 6 Prayer Group (Leslie Room in St. Mary's Church 9am)
- 7 Fairtrade Breakfast 8.00am
- 8 Year 3 Dance Fest @ The Hawth 7.00pm
- 15 Year 2 Bocketts Farm trip
- 16 Year 5 Forest School Sleepover @ St. Mary's
- 19 Year 5 Boys Football Workshop @ Forest School
- 22 Lizzie Williams (Paralympic Athlete)
- 22 Run a mile event
- 22 Year 6 Novium Museum Trip
- 23 Fairy Tale Ball in Year R
- 26-28 Prayer Spaces
- 27 Year 6 Junior Citizen @ Drill Hall
- 28 Communion in St. Mary's Church 2.00pm
- 29 INSET Day
- 29 End of term – school breaks up for Easter

April

- 16 Term Starts