



### Issue 4: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

#### Happy Half term!

It was so lovely to meet so many parents at parent consultations this week. It has been a very busy but proactive half term.

We'd like to wish all our children and their families a restful and fun week off.



#### Cycle Helmets

Children bringing their bikes to school, may only do so if they are wearing a cycle helmet. Only children having passed their Bike Ability level 2,

have permission to ride to school unaccompanied by their parent and then at their own risk. Children being accompanied by their parents, may bring their bike or scooter to school, but their parent should fully supervise this.

No child should be cycling up or down St. Mary's Way on the way to or from school because of the busy traffic at these times and no child should be cycling or scooting on the pavements where parents and other children are trying to make their way safely to and from school on foot.

After half term, **any child that comes to school on their bike without a helmet will be asked not to bring their bike to school.** Phone call will be made to the parents of these children.

Please help us to keep all our children safe.

#### The Data Collection Sheet

You should have received your child's data collection sheet this week to check through and amend, if needed. This holds important information related to your child that we hold and it is essential this is kept up to date. Please return it to school as soon as possible with any changes clearly made. Please complete any missing information, particularly addresses of all those with parental responsibility and their relationship to the child. On that sheet there is a dietary and medical section. Please ensure this is completed so we are clear on any medical conditions, allergies or dietary needs your child has to.

#### School Dinners

We hope that you enjoyed sampling some of the tasty foods on offer during our parents' evenings. In your child's book bag on Friday, you'll be receiving the new school lunch menu for next half term.

Did you know that you can order a school meal for your child, as a one off, at any point during the week? If your child normally has packed lunch, but likes the look of one of the meal choices on offer, you could just pay for the lunch for that day. You don't need to book for the whole week, or on the same day every week; it's very flexible.

Please call in at the office if you'd like to book a school meal, either before the day you'd like to book, or on the morning of the day itself.

#### Christmas Fair- save the date!

St. Mary's PTA are holding the Christmas Fair at St. Mary's Infant School on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

This is always a very popular event and help will be needed again this year. Look out for how you can get involved in future newsletters. On **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a non-uniform day when children will be asked to donate a bottle to the fair rather than a donation. (Just like we did so successfully at the Summer Fair.)

**If you'd like to help out with this event, our next PTA meeting will be at 2pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Infant School.**

#### School Crossing Patrol still wanted!

Pay is £7.80 per hour (plus holiday pay and retainer). If you are interested or would like further information please contact Heather Hill on 01992 556815 at Hertfordshire County Council, Transport.

#### Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

You need to **re-apply on-line** every year at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) Please re-apply as soon as possible even if your child does not have school meals as there are other benefits for your child and the school. Thank you If you need help, please see Mrs Duke in the office.

## Closing date for Secondary School

### applications!

Please note that the closing date for Secondary School online applications is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October.



If you need help with this, please call into the school office and speak to Mrs Duke.

## Allergies

In addition to the Data Collection Sheet, if your child has any food allergies you need to log this on the [www.hertscatering.co.uk/allergy-menu-application](http://www.hertscatering.co.uk/allergy-menu-application) website. Without



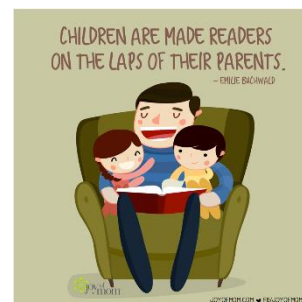
this completed the kitchen are unable to offer an alternative meal to your child that accommodates food allergies. After half term, any child who requests a school meal will be offered the standard meal option only unless this application has been made online. If you need help to do this, please see Mrs Duke in the office and she can assist you with this application.

### Reading workshop for parents

Miss Scammell, our English Leader in school, will be hosting some sessions for parents in the school hall about **reading**. These sessions will include:

- how you can help at home to improve your child's reading
- discussions about the types of questions to ask your child whilst you are reading together to improve their comprehension skills
- the value of reading to your child

The sessions will take place at **9.15am and 2.15pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** and will last approximately **45 minutes**. Each session will have the same content, so choose whichever time suits you. It would be lovely to see you all there!



**Reading Helpers Wanted!** - If you came to the parent helpers meeting last week, could we please remind you to bring the relevant documentation into school so that we can process your DBS applications. If you are unsure of what you'll need, please call in and see Mrs Duke for clarification.

## Diary dates

### October

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct** -PTA meeting at the Infant school

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct** - Years 3 and 4 Flu vaccinations

### November

**Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Nov** - all deposits for Staylittle and Cuffley to be paid by today.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov** - Reading workshops (see above)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Occasional Day (no children in school)

### December

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec**- Choir to Burleigh House with Mrs Moran (Christmas Carols)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Year 3 and & 4 Nativity (2pm and 6pm)

**Frid 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Non-uniform day (bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair tombola)

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Year 3 Christingle service

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas dinner

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Fair at the Infants school

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Church service at St Mary's church, 9.30am. All parents welcome!

- **End of term.** School closes at 1.30pm.

### Spring Term 2018

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan** - INSET Day (No children in school)

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Children back in school

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Break up for half term

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Children back in school

**Easter break** - **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April** inclusive.