



### Issue 2: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

#### Harvest Festival



Our school harvest Festival Service will take place at St Mary's Church on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm (not Weds 25<sup>th</sup> as in the last newsletter!)

We are encouraging children to bring in donations of tinned/dried foods that can be used by our chosen charity, The Baldock and Letchworth Foodbank. Any tinned or packet foods (eg pasta, soups, baked beans) would be useful but we would be particularly grateful for these foods:

- Tinned Fruit/Veg (especially tomatoes)
- Tinned puddings
- Tinned meat or fish
- Soup
- Baked beans
- Jam
- Dried or UHT milk
- 500g Sugar
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tea bags/coffee
- Pasta sauce
- Cereals
- Instant potato
- Rice/pasta/noodles
- Long-life fruit juice or squash
- Biscuits
- Toilet rolls
- Size 6 nappies
- Strong carrier bags

**Please make sure all donations have a long sell by date or they cannot be used.**

Children can bring in their donation any day this week - they will carry them to Church on Thursday to take up to the Harvest Table in our service. Thank you in anticipation for your generosity.

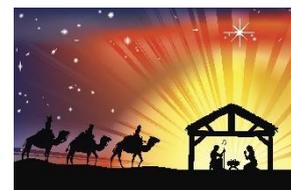


#### Macmillan Coffee morning

St Mary's will be taking part in the **World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** but, like last year, it will be **in the afternoon!** We would like to invite parents and grandparents to join us from 2.15pm that afternoon for coffee/ tea and a slice of cake. All donations will go to MacMillan Cancer Support.

#### Save the date!

Year 3 and 4 children will be performing their Nativity on **Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> December**. There will be both an afternoon and an evening performance. More details to follow nearer the time.



#### Would you like to help our PTA?

On **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**, our PTA will be meeting to discuss this year's Christmas Fair fundraising event. It would be wonderful if you could join us at 2pm in the school library to help us get organised! Again, all money raised will help us to replace our playground equipment.

#### Parent's Evening

Our parent consultation evenings this term are:

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 6.30-8.00pm**

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 3.30-6.00pm**

We will be trailing a new online booking system through Parentmail. Further information to follow.

#### School Crossing Patrol 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 @ 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

## School Council

Following democratic elections last week, we have our School Council for 2017-18. Mrs Murphy will be leading the School Election this year; well done to all!

<u><b>OAK</b></u> Harry Haywood Maggie-Lynne Jenkin	<u><b>ELM</b></u> Rhiannon James Alfie Brown
<u><b>MULBERRY</b></u> Sam Atkinson Georgina Bracey	<u><b>WILLOW</b></u> Remi-Lee Jones Tom Hammond
<u><b>POPLAR</b></u> Bonnie Baker Edward King	<u><b>BEECH</b></u> Sophie Dudderidge Harry Lunnon
<u><b>MAPLE</b></u> Sadie Chapman Rosie Hand Molly King Inigo Tapping	<u><b>SYCAMORE</b></u> Wesley Thompson Eden Baxter Erin Haywood Levi Holm

**Reading Helpers Wanted!** - We are asking if anyone is available to volunteer to help us in our quest to enhance progress in reading across the school. Whether you have done it before, or you are a complete beginner, we would appreciate your support. You would be working with children one to one and be required to support them with both decoding and comprehension. We will provide some guidance for any volunteers on ways to assist children with their reading, including comprehension and understanding of text. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher either via Class Dojo or the school office to let them know your availability. We will then provide you with the relevant information regarding DBS checks. Many thanks for your continued support.

**Support with reading at home** - Reading is such an essential life skill so it is vital that all children read at home regularly; both independently and with an adult. Family play a key role in the development of reading but we appreciate that the older the children get, the more difficult it becomes to know how to give the appropriate support that children need to progress. We are therefore offering some training for parents and carers on how to effectively support their children with reading at home. Miss Scammell will be delivering two sessions on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 9:15 and 2:15 - all are welcome so we hope you can come along as we would love to see you there.

### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

To date, we have only had one completed Reading Challenge brought into school! We have extended the celebration assembly date to **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** to allow more children to be awarded with a book token in recognition of their reading success. Could all children bring in their certificate by next Monday, **25<sup>th</sup> September**. Parents are warmly invited to attend our celebration assembly at **9.00am on the 29<sup>th</sup>**.



#### Building Learning Powers and the Growth Mind-set

This term, at St Mary's School, we are introducing the children to the principles of the **Growth Mind-set** through Guy Claxton's 'Building Learning Powers' (BLP) approach.



The learning Power that we are focusing on this term is **RESILIENCE**. Your child will be bringing home a parent information leaflet to explain what this means for our learning in school and how you can help your child at home. Please take time to read this and discuss the ideas with your child. If you'd like to find out more about the Growth Mind-set and Building Learning Powers, take a look at the reading list below.

#### Suggested reading list

- Growth Mindset - A Concise Guide For Parents by [Sarah Giles](#)
- Mindsets for Parents: Strategies to Encourage Growth Mindsets in Kids by [Mary Cay Ricci](#)
- Building Learning Power: Helping Young People Become Better Learners by [Guy Claxton](#)
- Learning to Learn - The Fourth Generation by [Guy Claxton](#).