



### Issue 3: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

#### A Big Thank You

The Coffee morning, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, raised almost £250 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who made this such a success again this year.

Followed closely on its heels, we had the Harvest Festival in church on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. All your generous gifts have now been distributed to the Letchworth Food Bank and Young Herts Homeless. Thank you.

#### Polite Request

Would parents of year 3 and 4 children please ensure that their children do not enter the wildlife area off the upper playground before or after school and that younger siblings bringing scooters and bikes onto the playground walk with them and not ride them. Unfortunately, there was a collision between a younger sibling on a bike and one of our children recently and it makes the playground very unsafe for everyone. We would also ask you to ensure that your children do not use the playground equipment or tyre park before or after school. Many thanks for your cooperation.



#### 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.

Please help us to keep all our children safe.

#### Anxiety Workshop

The school have organised a workshop on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15 am - 11.00am for parents who want to learn more about anxiety in children, its impact and strategies to help them manage this. Becky from NESSIE will be leading this and Nicky McGrinder, our family support worker, will be supporting her. We already have some parents who have said they would like to come, so you won't be on your own. Cake and Coffee on offer. Please let Miss Lyon know by Dojo if you are planning to come, thank you.

#### Year 5 Samba Workshop.

Year 5 have brought a letter home this week about a music Samba workshop to be held at Knights Templar School on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. It should be a fun morning of music and dance.

#### Christmas Fair

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.)

#### 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 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.

## 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.

## New Baby

It has been lovely to see Mrs Simmons on visits in school along with her gorgeous new baby, Emma. The competition for cuddles amongst the staff monopolised Emma on each of her visits.

## Goodbye

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Allen in the office this week. Mrs Allen has supported the school as a parent, PTA committee member and Governor. She will be greatly missed by all and we wish her well.

Mrs Wells is also leaving us next week to start a new full time post. She has supported many children over the years and always done her utmost for the school. She too will be sadly missed.

## 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.

## Parent's Evening

Our parent consultation evenings this term are:

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 5.30-8.00pm** (note this time has now been extended to fit in with the new online booking times)

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

We will be trialling a new online booking system through Parentmail. Very soon you will get a message from Parentmail telling you to log on, select Parent Evening Manager and enter your preferred day and time for a consultation with the class teacher. The system will open on Tuesday next week at 8.00am and will close on Saturday. If you have not made an appointment you will get an email to remind you to do so but the appointment slots will be first come first serve. If you need more than one appointment slot for your child the second appointment will need to be made directly with Mrs Duke in the school office. If you are not yet connected through Parentmail then you might consider signing up. If you are unable to access the internet, then please see Mrs Duke who will help you make the appointment online here. Please bear with us as this appointment system is new to us too.

**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. A training session for volunteers is planned for the afternoon of **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** on ways to assist children with their reading, including comprehension and understanding of text. Those who are already volunteering, should have received a letter about this already.

If you are interested in helping, 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.

Parents at home, you are key in supporting your child with their reading so we are offering some training for parents and carers too on how to effectively support your children with reading at home. Miss Scammell will be delivering two sessions on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 9:15 am and 2:15 pm** - all are welcome so we hope you can come along as we would love to see you there.