



ST
MARY'S
C OF E
(VC)
JUNIOR
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



9th January
2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. I hope Christmas was a happy time for all of our families.

This term will be my last as Headteacher at St Mary's before I retire at Easter. My successor, Mrs Britton will be coming in on a few occasions throughout the term to meet with staff, children and governors before she takes over in April. I know she is really looking forward to leading the school and working with our wonderful staff and children. Exciting times ahead!

Patricia Jenkins

GOVERNORS' NEWS

Thank you to all those parents who filled in our survey at the Parent Consultation evening last term. The variety of skills and interests that you are willing to share with the school is amazing – from hula hooping to understanding mental health! We have passed all the details on to the staff, so hopefully they will be able to contact you when they need help. If anyone would like to help the school in any way, but did not give their details on the survey, please contact the school to let them know.

To summarise the rest of the survey:

What I like best about the school – The way the children are kept interested and inspired by the teachers – It is a caring school and aims to develop pupils – Breadth of activities and experiences – The teachers' hard work and dedication – It is friendly and caring and each child is encouraged to do their best – My children enjoy coming – My child comes home happy every day – The school brings the best out of children, encouraging them to be honest, caring and to support each other.

What I like least and How can the school improve brought out some areas such as consistency of communication, that we will be looking at, although I am not yet sure what we can do to improve the parking!

To us it was a worthwhile exercise, and your positive comments will be a well-deserved boost to the wonderful staff that we have.

On behalf of the governors I should like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Rosemary Charsley (Chair of Governors)

CUFFLEY CAMP AND STAYLITTLE PAYMENTS

A reminder that these were due on 5th January with the next payment due on 1st February. If you are not able to make a payment on the given dates, please contact the school office. We will always try to help and it will prevent you getting the barrage of text reminders that we have to send each month!

CHRISTIAN VALUES FOR THE SPRING TERM

This term we are looking at Integrity (first half term) and Forgiveness (leading up to Easter) as Christian Values.

We will be encouraging the children to reflect on these values in their lives and talk about ways in which they can develop their understanding of these Christian Values within their relationships, their behaviour and their choices. Our Friday Achievement Awards in this half term will be given to children who show integrity in what they do and in the choices they make.

DIARY DATES

These are the dates we have in the diary at the moment. We will inform you of other events as and when they are confirmed. You will see January is a quiet month in recognition of short days and possible icy conditions. March however, is very busy with sport fixtures, thanks to our amazing sports coaches.

January

Tuesday 17th Year 4 Speed Stacking tournament at KTS 3:45-5:45

February

Thursday 3rd Year 6 KTS Sportshall Athletics tournament (after school)

Week beg. 6th History Week in school

Tuesday 7th School Photographer in school for classes and teams

Thursday 9th Tag Rugby tournament Y5/6 11:45-3:30 at Letchworth Rugby Club

Friday 10th Year 6 Music Festival at KTS (all day – Parents invited for 2pm)

Monday 13th – Friday 17th HALF TERM

Monday 20th Girls' Football match v St Francis after school (home)

Weds 22nd A Team Boys' Football v St John's after school (away)

Thursday 23rd Image Theatre Company presenting 'The Selfish Giant' (am) in school

Netball A Team v Hartsfield after school (away)

Sunday 26th Parish Praise Church Service for St Mary's Schools 9:30

Monday 27th Boys' Football tournament after school (home)

March

Weds 1st Ash Wednesday Service 1:00 (in school)

Thursday 2nd Boys' A Team Football tournament at St Christopher's 1-5pm

Netball v Lordship Farm after school (away)

Monday 6th Netball A Team tournament at St Francis 4:00-5:30pm

Tuesday 7th Girls' Football v St John's after school (away)

Monday 13th Year 6 Handball tournament at Whitehill School 1-3pm

Netball B Team v St Christopher's (away)

Tuesday 14th Parent-Teacher Consultations 5:30-8:00

Weds 15th Parent-Teacher Consultations 3:30-6:00

Girls' Football tournament at St Christopher's 3:00-5:30pm

Thursday 16th Year 5 and 6 Communion Service 11:00-12:00 in school

Week beg 20th Art and RE Week in school

Monday 20th Netball B Team tournament at St Francis 4:00-5:30

Weds 22nd Boys' Football B Team after school (home)

Thursday 23rd – Wed 29th Book Fair in school

Friday 24th Comic Relief – Non-uniform day

Weds 29th Boys' B Team Football tournament at St John's 3-5pm

Thursday 30th Year 3 to Celtic Harmony Camp - a working stone-age village

Friday 31st Easter Service in Church 9:30

Last day of term 1:30 finish

First day of summer term is Tuesday 18th April

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday April 21st – Friday May 26th Year 3 1 hour swimming lessons 6 wk course at Hitchin Pool

Friday June 9th – Friday June 30th Year 5 1 hour swimming lessons 4 wk course at Hitchin Pool

Tuesday 25th April Year 4 to British Museum (Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt study)

Monday 8th - Thursday 11th May Year 6 SATs

Weds 17th – Friday 19th May Year 4 to Cuffley Camp

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June Half term

Monday 5th – Friday 9th June Year 6 to Staylittle for Activity Week

Monday 19th June INSET day: School closed

Thursday 27th June Year 3 to Verulamium Museum and St Albans Cathedral
(History study of the Romans)

Friday 21st July Last day of summer term