St Mary's C of E Junior School Newsletter

Care. Believe. Succeed.

'All things are possible for one who believes.'

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

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We've had a wonderful first two weeks back in school and it has been so lovely to see the children's happy, smiling faces!

Our new Year 3 children have settled in really well and it is a delight to see their positive energy, enthusiasm and curiosity. Joining a new school can be challenging, but they are already showing us how fabulous they are at following new routines and our school values. They have been especially fabulous at coming into Collective Worship each day. We expect great things from them!

Curriculum & Enrichment

Eco-schools accreditation

Last year, children from all year groups made up our proactive eco-committee. Throughout the year, the children decided on three key areas to focus on: litter, water and healthy living. They arranged daily litter picks on our school grounds as well as some in the local area. Assemblies were also organised and led by the children highlighting the importance of disposing of litter correctly, ways to save water and why healthy living is important. In the spring term, a healthy living week was organised. This included working with Herts Catering to make changes to the lunchtime menu, yoga workshops, tasting different fruits/vegetables and a smoothie making workshop (which involved using bikes!) There was also a focus on ways to save water and creating water saving posters.

Our eco-committee worked tirelessly to make positive changes and I am really proud of their efforts. On the last day of term, we were awarded **the Eco-Schools accreditation with merit**. Within the email from eco-schools it stated: The code, 'Protect, Plant, Prevent and Preserve,' sums up your year of activity, Your Eco-Committee has empowered their entire school and the wider community with this belief. Congratulations on your Eco-Schools'

Green Flag with Merit, 2024. We encourage everyone involved to take great pride in their wonderful achievements – your year of activity has been inspiring.

Well done to all members of the eco-committee (including those who have moved on to secondary school). We aim to continue our hard work this year.

Mrs Simmons

Could you give up some of your time to help the children at St Mary's?

*We would love some volunteers to come into school and support children with **reading**. This might be parents, grandparents or any other family members who would be interested. This will involve hearing children read on a one-to-one basis for a regular slot each week. We will provide guidance on this for anyone who volunteers, and we will also sort out a DBS for safeguarding purposes.*
If you, or any other family member, would be interested, please contact your child's class teacher to let them know.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you receive Universal Credits or other benefits you may be entitled to Free Schools Meals. Not only does this enable your child to have a free meal everyday it will also allow you to pay reduced fees for school trips. Please click on the following link to make an application. Thank you.

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx#year3

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

On Friday 27th September, St Mary's Junior & Infant schools will be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning from **10-11.30am in the Junior School Hall** and we warmly invite all members of our school and local community.

However, in order for this event to be a success, we are asking for donations of cakes, cupcakes etc (no nuts please as we are nut-free schools), which can be either homemade or shop bought. Cakes can be taken into the school office at the Junior school and into classes at the Infants from Wednesday 27th September onwards and all donations will be very gratefully received! If cakes are homemade, please include a list of ingredients inside the tin.

Our Year 6 children are excited to be running the stalls. Please bring donations of cash only to pop into their donation boxes.

Bring your friends and family! All are welcome.

No need to RSVP, just turn up!

Whole school Panto

We are very excited that the whole school will be visiting the Gordon Craig Theatre on Wednesday 4th December to see Peter Pan (oh yes we are!).
This event happens every two years at St Mary's and always proves to be a magical occasion for all children and staff. Please do send the forms back for this and pay via Arbor, if you haven't already done so.

SEND and Parent Consultation meetings

SEND parent meetings: Y3 1st Oct, Y4 8th Oct, Y5 15th Oct, Y6 22nd Oct
Parent Consultation dates: Weds 23rd and Thurs 24th October.

If your child is on the SEND register, you will be invited to attend an SEND parent review meeting with the SENCO and class teacher. You will not need to make an appointment for Parent consultations if you attend the SEND meeting.
Parents will be notified in due course about how and when they can book an appointment through Arbor for all parent meetings.

POLITE REMINDERS

We have some children in school who have severe allergies to nuts. Please do not send your child into school with any food items that contain nuts – this includes hazelnut spread (Nutella) or any cereal bars that contain nuts.

In addition, we would like to remind parents that break time snacks should only be healthy snacks; no chocolate/chocolate biscuits or crisps please. Lunch boxes should also not contain chocolate bars or sweets. Lunchtime staff will remove these and hand them back to children to take home at the end of the day.

Extract from our school prospectus

Packed Lunches For children who bring a packed lunch, we ask that they are provided with a healthy, balanced choice of sandwiches, salads and fresh fruit. Some of the healthy lunches children bring are quite inventive including pasta salad, wraps, different types of whole grain rolls and sandwiches. Vegetable sticks and grapes are popular as are home made cakes and cookies. Please keep the amount of processed and packaged food to a minimum and no sweets or chocolate bars please! Please do not send in nut based products as we have some children in school who have nut allergies.

Mid-morning snack Children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fresh fruit, a cereal bar or plain biscuit for morning break. **Sweets, chocolate snacks and crisps are not allowed.**

Thank you for your help with this ☺

Uniform reminders

The children are looking very smart in their new uniforms. There are still a few children who are wearing trainers to school on uniform days. Quite a few children are wearing trainers on PE days that are not blue, black, white or grey.

- *Please ensure that your child is wearing black school shoes. Trainers should only be worn on PE days.*
- *Children are not allowed to wear jewellery of any kind to school. Children wearing earrings may* ***wear simple unobtrusive studs.*** *These must be removed or covered during PE lessons and swimming.*

P. E. Kit

- All pupils in the school take part in physical education activities and should have the following kit:

  Indoors – black shorts, light blue or white T-Shirt.

  Outdoors – black shorts (black or navy tracksuit bottoms for colder weather), light blue or white T-shirt, (black or navy sweatshirt for colder weather) and trainers. **No hoodies or clothing with coloured/large branded logos please**. Trainers should only be worn for outdoor PE and should be in line with school colours **(either black, blue, white or grey).**
- Long hair should be tied back for all PE lessons.
- Children taking part in team sports will be given a school kit for the game if they play in inter-school competitions.

Children should come into school in their PE kit on PE lesson days.

PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM AND DO NOT SEND CHILDREN IN WITH LARGE SPORTSBAGS AS WE DO NOT HAVE THE SPACE IN THE CLOAKROOMS.

Communication via Dojo – Reminders

For questions or queries relating to wider school issues, such as provision and lunches, timing should be directed to the school office by Dojo, phone or email. If a child is ill or will be late into school, this should be communicated to the school office by phone, email or through the School Office Class Dojo. If there is a significant Safeguarding concern, this should be communicated to one of the Designated safeguarding leads (Mrs Britton, Mrs McQuade, Miss Scammell, Mrs Reeve or Mrs Law) as soon as possible by phone or by Class Dojo using their own messaging line.

At St Mary's, we are highly considerate of staff well-being. If you need to contact your child's teacher, please do so **before 5pm.** Messages sent late at night will not be responded to until the following day.

SEND Parent Highlights

Please see the following information for helpful parent workshops:

DSPL1 Outreach support

- https://tinyurl.com/DSPLnews
- Child Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops
- NESSie My World & Me Training

Family Lives

Family Lives are delivering 4 Online parenting groups and 3 Online workshops (via MS Teams), funded by Herts County Council in the Autumn term for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire or who have a child attending a Hertfordshire school.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members so they can help their child reach their full potential.

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children - Online Thursday 19 September to 24 October 7.00pm – 9.00pm	**Dads Together – Online** Wednesday 6 November to 11 December 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children - Online Tuesday 8 October – 19 November 9.30am – 11.30am	**Anxiety around ADHD Workshop - Online** Thursday 10 October 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Less Shouting more Cooperation - Online Monday 11 November to 16 December 9.30am – 11.30am	**Reducing Conflict Workshop – Online** Tuesday 26 November 9.30am – 11.30am
Siblings Workshop – Online Thursday 12 December 7.00pm – 9.00pm	

To book a place please click here Referral Form for Family Lives Herts Parenting Groups and Workshops for our online referral form or scan the QR code on the attached flyer

You can also email services@familylives.org.uk or call us on 0204 522 8700 for more information.

Art Competition 2024

Calling all Key Stage 2 pupils in Hertfordshire!

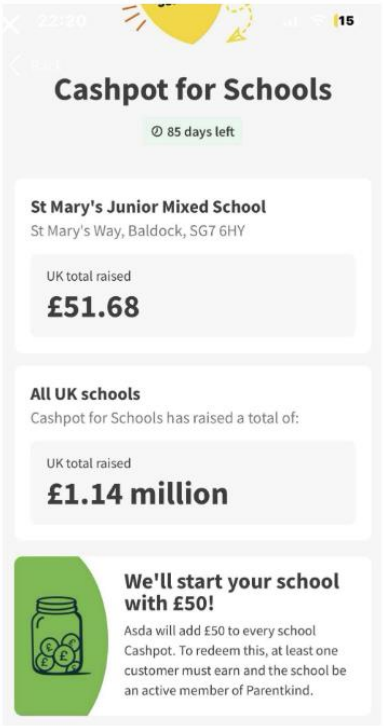
Hertfordshire Heroes is encouraging all Key Stage 2 pupils in Hertfordshire to take part in our annual Christmas Art Competition by 25 November 2024. This year, we invite children to create artwork to bring cheer to military personnel for their chance to win a day of adventure hosted by the UK military's operational headquarters, Northwood HQ. A winner will be chosen from each year group in Key Stage 2.

HERTFORDSHIRE HEROES

The artwork will be shared with those serving in the Armed Forces who are working away from their families at Christmas to help bring them some cheer.

Please see the attached flyer for more details about how to enter.

Asda Cashpots for schools



PLEASE SUPPORT US

We are delighted to be included in Asda's Cashpot for Schools! This initiative allows shoppers to raise money for their chosen school every time they shop!

By shopping with Asda and using their loyalty app – Asda Rewards, parents, carers, grandparents, aunties and uncles can raise much needed funds for our school.

What do you need to do?
Download the Asda Rewards app (if you are not already using it) and select our school name - St Mary's Junior Mixed School or search for us using our post code SG7 6HY.

Make sure you scan the barcode in the app every time you shop. This means Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your basket to us.

Further to this, Asda have started our school's Cashpot with £50 and will add an additional £1 to the school pot for every customer who signs up.

Thank you all for your support with this initiative.

https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools

Attachments with this newsletter:

- **Macmillan Coffee morning poster**
- **Attendance letter (sent out to parents 6th September)**
- **Helping parents understand Penalty Notice Fines**
- **Holiday request form Sept 24**
- **Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops**
- **DSPL1 SEND offer for parents and carers**
- **Hertfordshire Heroes Art Competition 2024 flyer**
- **Moving on leaflet for Year 6**
- **Admissions poster**

Diary dates

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 20th December 2024
Autumn Half Term: 28th October 2024 to 1st November 2024
Christmas Break: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Monday 6th January 2025
INSET DAY: Monday 2nd September 2024
INSET DAY: Friday 25th October 2024
OCCASIONAL DAY: Friday 29th November 2024