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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Curriculum & Enrichment

Modern Foreign Languages

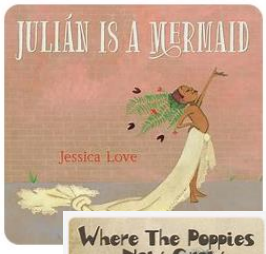
This term we have picked up our 'Pen Pal club' early with a small number of Year 6 children and, for the first time, we opened it up to Year 4 and they are very enthusiastic. We have so far, decorated some Christmas stars for the Baldock Twinning Association. These had messages about what made Christmas special for the children, which were also translated into French and, I believe, used for the Christmas tree festival at St Mary's church. After that, we made some Christmas cards for our French pen pals, which will be sent off to Sanvigne-Les-Mines - the town in France which is twinned with Baldock.

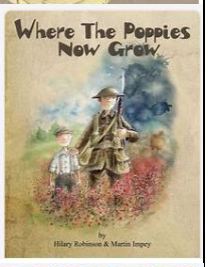
Next term, will see the start of a language club, either Latin, French, Italian or Spanish. I will put it to the vote and let the children decide.

In the meantime, Joyeux Noel, Buon Natale, Feliz Navidad and beati festivitates.

Mrs Di Noia

Writing





Since September, St Mary's Junior School have been using a new writing curriculum from Herts for Learning called Essential Writing.

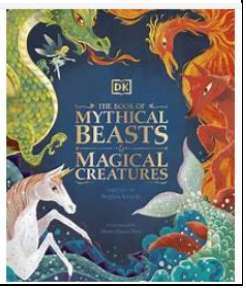
This has brought great quality and diverse texts to our curriculum and created a real buzz for writing amongst the staff and pupils. It puts a real focus on the pleasure that can be found from writing and has encouraged pupils to really think about the purpose of their written work and who they are writing for…who is their audience?

We have really enjoyed units on cinquain poetry about the First World War, written non-chronological reports about unique monsters, designed and written about flying machines and composed stories about gargoyles, broken promises and kings who banned the dark.

We hope that through the use of this writing curriculum, we can increase the pupils' love of writing and encourage them to see that the written word has a purpose in every area of their lives.

Make sure that you keep asking your children what they are writing about in school, as their parents can be a key purpose and audience for them to share their ideas and achievements with.

Mrs Atkinson



End of term Effort Awards

A huge well done to all children who received an end of term effort award during our assembly on Friday 13th December - you should feel proud.

Year 3	Year 4	Year5	Year 6
Julia	Logan	Lily	Evie
Rory	Alfie	Jack	Jess
Isaiah	Isabelle	Beau	Bethany

Whole school Pantomime visit to the Gordon Craig

What a wonderful time we had on 4th December when the whole school visited the Gordon Craig Theatre to see 'Peter Pan'! There was much excitement, lots of laugher and a great time was had by all who attended.

Christmas Dinner Day

The children looked absolutely wonderful in their Christmas jumpers, whilst having their Christmas dinner together on Wednesday 11th December. Thank you to the HCL team for cooking up a tasty feast and to all staff, including teachers and support staff, who served lunch to the children.

School Orchestra

On Friday 13th December, the school orchestra held a Christmas performance of their latest musical pieces they have been practicing. We would like to thank Mrs Sterling for leading our school orchestra – the children have made such wonderful progress this term!

There will be no session next week, so the club will resume on Friday 10th January. If you have a child wishing to join the club, please come along at 8 am with their instruments, to get a feel for it. Please let the school office know if you have any questions.

Christmas Choir performances in the community

We are so proud of our school choir, who have brought so much joy to elderly members of our community during the festive season.
They sang beautifully and warmed the hearts of so many residents, who sang along and even danced!
Our thanks go to Mrs Hinchliff and Mr Clark for spending so many lunchtimes rehearsing with the choir.

Rotary Club Christmas Concert

Wow! The choir did an amazing performance at the Rotary Club concert at the Catholic Church on 12th December. They followed the direction of Mr Clark well and sang absolutely beautifully, remembering all of those tricky words! The audience were blown away! We are so proud of each and every one of them. If you didn't get chance to see your child perform in choir, they will be performing again in the Year 3/4 concert on Tuesday 17th December at St Mary's Church, 5pm start.

Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

On Tuesday 17th December at 5pm, all of Year 3 & 4 children, plus the school choir will be performing a Christmas Carol concert at St Mary's church.

The children have been working hard to prepare and it is really important we have everybody there. It will last approximately one hour. Children should arrive at 4:45pm and family are warmly invited to watch.

Christmas Events dates

16th December -Choir singing at Burleigh House 1.00pm
17th December -Year 3&4 Carol Concert at St Mary's Church 5-6pm
19th December -Christmas service at St Mary's Church -parents welcome. 9.30am

Reminder: Term ends on Friday 20th December at 1.00pm.

All staff at St Mary's would like to thank parents for your continued support this term. We wish all our families a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

HAPpy winter camps

Hertfordshire's Holiday Activity Programme HAPpy

Bookings for winter HAPpy Camps are now open!
HAPpy camps are running across Hertfordshire this festive period, available from 23 December 2024 – 3 January 2025 (selected dates).

Camps are for children and young people (Reception to Year 11) who attend a Hertfordshire school and are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The programme, funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the Department of Education (DfE) via the government's Holiday Activity and Food programme, is co-ordinated by Herts Sport and Activity Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation

Get your child's booking code from their school office and book your free place.
Places can be booked from midday on Friday 29 November via the Herts Sport and Activity Partnership's website: https://bit.ly/BookHAPpy5W24

CLUBS

Monday (after school) Gymnastics Yr3/4 (contact the school office to book)
Tuesday (after school) Dance (all years)
Thursday (before school) Multisports (all years)
Friday (before school) Orchestra (all years)
Friday (after school) Gymnastics Yr5/6 (contact the school office to book)

Reminder: Term ends on Friday 20th December at 1.00pm

Spring Term 2025

Christmas Break: Mon 23rd Dec 2024 to Fri 3rd January 2025
INSET DAY: Monday 6th January 2025

February Half Term: 17th February to 21st February 2025

Easter Holidays: 7th April to 22nd April 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
INSET DAY: 22nd April 2025
MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 5th May 2025

Spring Half Term: 26th May to 31st May 2025
INSET DAY: Monday 2nd June 2025

Summer Term Ends: 23rd July 2024 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
Summer Holidays: 24th July to 2nd September 2025