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

PHSE –Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Children's Mental Health Week - 5-11th February

Children across the school enjoyed taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, thinking about the theme 'My Voice Matters'. All children took part in assemblies led by the NSPCC for their 'Speak Out Stay Safe' programme and Years 5 and 6 took part in workshops. There were some super activities happening throughout the week including persuasive speeches, yoga, poster making and activities that involved thinking and discussion.

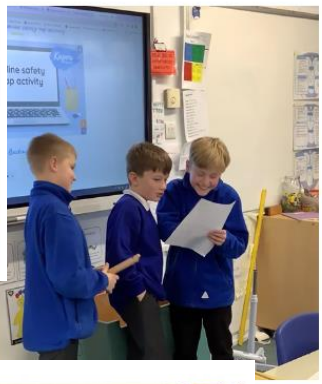
Year 3 completed some fantastic pieces of homework celebrating themselves. The week ended nicely with HCL visiting to lead an assembly on making healthy food choices, as this is something we are encouraging the children to do when choosing what snack to bring for their morning snack.

Year 4 were making 'Chains of Positivity' about the things they were good at.

Year 5 wrote and performed some brilliant internet safety raps of their work on Safer Internet Day – they even sang along with music!

Year 6 completed their own Stay Safe kits, following their NSPCC workshops.

Mrs Hinchliff (PSHE lead)



Year 3 Egyptian Day -13th February

Year 3 immersed themselves in all things Egyptian on Tuesday 13th February! They spent the morning making cuffs, collars and headwear adorned with gems, and were then able to show off their creations to their parents and carers in the afternoon. During the afternoon the children shared some of their Egyptian artwork, mummified tomatoes, shadufs and pyramids so their adults could see what they have been learning about. Parents and children had time to learn how to write hieroglyphs together and build their own paper tombs, as well as trying some Ancient Egyptian style food. The afternoon ended with dancing along to Walk Like an Egyptian on the big screen! We are so grateful for the effort put into ensuring the children had a tunic to wear for the day, and for coming along, it was fantastic to see so many parents!

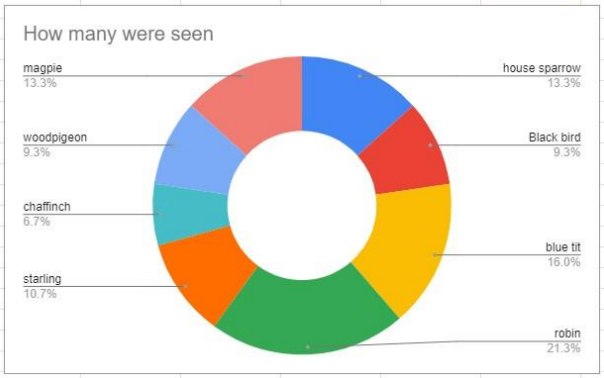
The Year 3 Team.

Year 5 Birdwatch

Last week Year 5 were very busy: we took part in the Big School Birdwatch, and we even did some astronaut training, doing activities that tested our endurance, balance, dexterity, and teamwork under pressure!

Type of bird	How many were seen	Scarlett and Mason
house sparrow	10	
Black bird	7	
blue tit	12	
robin	16	
starling	8	
chaffinch	5	
woodpigeon	7	
magpie	10	

The most of a bird that we saw was a robin we think that is because robins come out at winter more .



St Mary's families,

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, relaxing half term holiday. As Mrs Britton has communicated in prior newsletters, I am now departing for maternity leave to welcome my first little bundle of joy into the world! I would like to thank Mrs Britton and all of the St Mary's staff team, who are fabulous, for their care and support and to parents and carers too for their good luck messages and well wishes received. I look forward to seeing everyone again upon my return from maternity leave.

Best wishes,
Mrs McQuade x

SPORTS UPDATE

Amazing performance from our children this week in a Boccia tournament. You'd never know that they had never played before, as they won 8/10 matches, coming 1st overall!

Yet again, our children were nominated for their teamwork and sportsmanship, with some of our children gaining extra certificates. We are really proud of them all.

Thank you St Mary's PTA

We would like to thank our current PTA team for the amazing efforts in raising much needed funds for our school over the past years. The fundraising events have been varied and memorable, resulting in such positive experiences for our children.

Thank you so much to those leaving our PTA as Chair and Vice-Chair, Emma Rowe and Kate French. Your efforts and service to both the schools and the community have resulted in vital funds raised for projects such as a new cooking area and IT equipment for our children, new reading books- to name but a few!

If there are any parents who are interested in taking on one of the vacant roles above moving forwards, please do get in touch with Mrs Rowe, Mrs Britton or Miss Edey by Monday 19th February.

Parent Consulations

Spring term parent consulations will be on the following dates:
Thursday 21st March 5-7.30pm
Tuesday 26th March 3.40-6pm

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

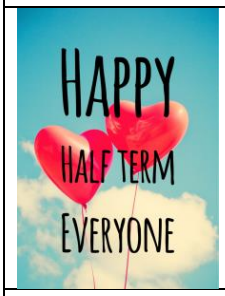
HOT DOG FRIDAYS

Hot dog Fridays are proving to be popular, so Mrs Castle and her team will be selling them most Fridays on the Year 3&4 playground at a cost of £1 each. Please ensure that they have £1 coins only in order to purchase these. All profits will go towards their IT equipment fundraising.

Come and join us on the top playground after school today!

Attachments with this newsletter:

- **HPCI AIS Parent webinar poster**
- **KA Food Station leaflet**



Wishing all our families a wonderful break!

Diary dates

Spring Term 2024
Thursday 4th January 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024
Spring Half Term: Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 23rd February 2024
Easter Break: Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024
GOOD FRIDAY: 29th March 2024

Summer Term 2024
Monday 15th April 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July 2024
Summer Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024
EASTER MONDAY: 1st April 2024
MAY BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 6th May 2024
INSET DAY: Monday 15th April 2024
INSET DAY: Monday 3rd June 2024
TRANSITION DAY: Thursday 11th July 2024
INSET DAY: Monday 22nd July 2024
INSET DAY: Tuesday 23rd July 2024

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