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

WORLD RELIGION DAY

On Friday the 13th of September, all classes spent the whole day taking part in a wide range of enjoyable and engaging activities as part our World Religion Day. Each year group learned about a different religion and every child took part in varied and meaningful learning that was designed to broaden their understanding of the religion they were studying. Throughout the school, the children enjoyed many different activities such as cooking traditional Jewish food, making Islamic geometric patterns, sculpting a clay Buddha, making salt dough Diva Lamps and Rangoli patterns. We also had a faith visitor who talked to year 5 about Judaism and we are looking forward to having more visitors for the other year groups in the in the future. It was a great day, which was enjoyed by both the children and the staff.

On Friday 27th September, St Mary's Junior & Infant schools will be hosted a Macmillan coffee morning. We were so overwhelmed with the generous donations of cakes from our families and there was a wonderful turn out of visitors from our school community for the event- thank you so much!

Our Pupil Parliament children did us proud by serving cakes and raised £208.08 for their first fundraising event! Great job!

Staffing news

Ms Ware, one of our wonderful classroom support staff, has been unwell for quite some time and will sadly not be returning to St Mary's. We will miss her positivity and smiling face around school, but wish her well on her road to recovery.
Ms Ware has sent the following message to send to children and parents:

"Hello everyone,
You haven't seen me for a while, and I have really missed you all. I have decided to leave St Mary's due to serious physical health issues. I am very sad about this as I had hoped to come back. Working at St Mary's was an absolute joy for me and what a privilege to work at such a fantastic school!
I will miss the wonderful children most of all and I will treasure the happy memories I have of working with many children over the years. I will never forget you.
I am going to focus now on my health and continuing my recovery.
Wishing you all much happiness and success.
Ms Ware 😊"

Parent Consultation meetings

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.

Harvest Festival -8th October

On Tuesday 8th October, we will be holding a harvest festival in school lead by Mr Clark. This will be held in school this year rather than Church. As part of this, we are asking the children to bring donations of food or other essentials for Letchworth Food Bank. These need to be sealed, non-perishable items. Below is a list of the items they require most urgently:

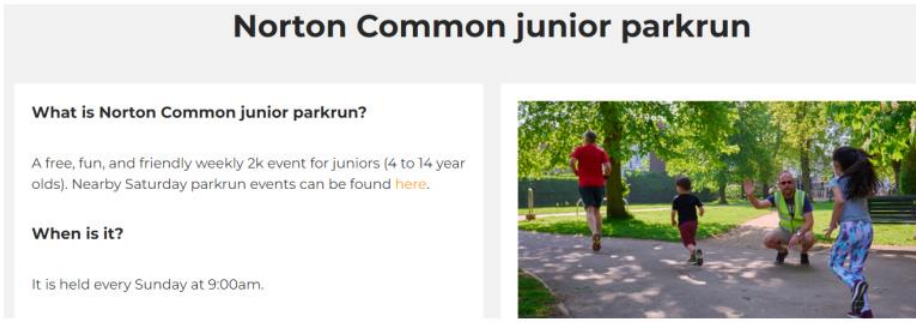
Biscuits 300g
Fruit Juice 1L
Milk Semi Skimmed 1L
Dried Potatoes 80g
Tinned Rice
Custard
Sponge Puddings
Squash 1L
Sugar 0.5kgs
Sugar 1kgs
Tinned Vegetables 300g
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toilet Rolls
Washing Powder

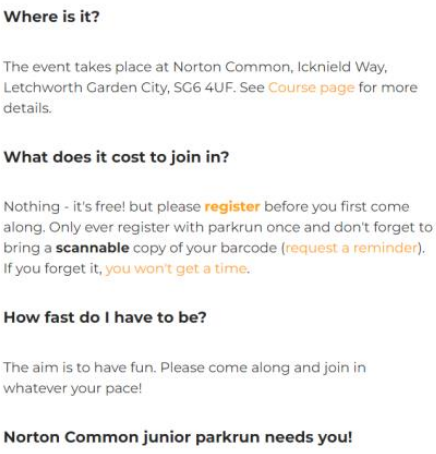
Letchworth foodbank
serving Letchworth Hitchin Baldock

Many thanks,
Miss Scammell

Are you and your children interested in a free activity to enjoy the outdoors and keep active?

If so, Norton Common Junior Parkrun could be the answer! Click on the link to find out more.





https://www.parkrun.org.uk/nortoncommon-juniors/

Parent conduct

We are fortunate to have a super supportive parent body, and the vast majority of communication with the school is constructive and carried out in a collaborative way. However, every year there are a small number of parents/carers who are verbally abusive to my staff. Like any public-facing organisation, my staff have the right to feel safe at work.

I will challenge parents/carers who are abusive and, where required, place restrictions on them coming on to the school site and if necessary, report their behaviour to the police.

Thank you to all our parents who are supportive and value the positive relationships they have with our school staff team – this is very much appreciated.

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.

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.

Attachments with this newsletter:

- Online Safety Newsletter for parents
- Hertfordshire Heroes art competition

Autumn Term 2024

Mon 2 Sept 2024 to Fri 20th Dec 2024 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
INSET DAY: Monday 2nd September 2024
INSET DAY: Friday 25th October 2024

Autumn Half Term: 28th October 2024 to 1st November 2024
OCCASIONAL DAY: Friday 29th November 2024

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