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

St Mary's Musical Showcase

Today, the talented children of the St Marys Orchestra and the School Choir performed to the school community in the St Marys Musical Showcase. The Orchestra, led by Mrs Sterling, made up of 13 children and playing over 7 different instruments, performed an original song they have been practising. We then heard individual children play their chosen piece on their instruments, starting with Daniel, who played the cornet, followed by Alfie, who played keyboard and finally Hester, who played the clarinet. We then listened to the Choir, led by Mr Clarke, singing some Christmas carols. Finally, the whole school sang along with their final song, kicking off our lead up to Christmas - it's never too early!

Science

Our Year 6 children have been taking part in an Industry in the Community project, in partnership with Johnson Matthey in Royston. The company has the ambition to be a world leader in sustainable technology solutions, transforming energy and reducing carbon emissions, for a cleaner, brighter future. Their Science and Me project in schools is a global community impact

programme with a goal to improve access to quality STEM education and opportunities for young people. The programme promotes science, and the subjects underpinning it, as a key enabler to protecting people and the planet, and contributing to a diverse, skilled workforce for the future, by empowering the next generation of STEM professionals.

This week, scientists came into school and worked with some of our children in Year 6 to test the viscosity of different liquids. They found that ketchup was the most viscous and vinegar or water were the least viscous.

In the next few weeks, our Year 6 children are looking forward to visiting the Johnson Matthey site to see sustainable technology solutions in action!

Sports Update

Cross Country

On 15th November, our children put in an unbelievable amount of effort during the District X Country event. With over 150 children racing, they knew it would be tough. For the first time ever, we had not 1, but 2 individual champions as Ken and Bethany were the winners in the Year 6 category! All of our Yr 6 girls finished in the top 14 resulting in a Silver medal in the team event. Our Yr 6 boys went one better as we had a 1st, 3rd and 5th finish in a 50 person strong event, giving St Mary's the best score that has ever been recorded at this event. Our Yr 5's also showed fantastic determination to finish 4th and 5th in the team events, with Elijah finishing the highest in a superb 4th place!
All of our scores added together made St Mary's, again, the best school in X Country. Well done everybody – we are SUPER PROUD!

Football On 13th November, the girls football team played in the LDSSA tournament with eight other teams from around the local area. The girls played well, showing a positive attitude and represented St Mary's with distinction. Well done! You have made us all very proud.

Netball

Our netball team were superb on Thursday 7th November, as they took on the best 3 schools in our District. Winning more of our games than losing, our children can feel really proud with the belief they can enter tournaments next year with a chance to win.

New Chair of Governors

I'm delighted to say that on 20th November, we elected a new Chair Of Governors -Mr Mike Austins. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him into the St Mary's family.
Mike has written the follwing to introduce himself to parents:

'I would like to thank the Head and Governors for giving me the opportunity and privilege of being the new Chair for St. Mary's Juniors.
I know what a lovely school St. Mary's is, partly as my partner Kim Ware has, until recently, been employed there.
The children are a credit to the school and their parents, and rightly they are at the centre of everything that the school staff work so hard to achieve. I am very much looking forward to working with the Head, Governors, Staff and the school community to continue promoting the very strong caring, inclusive and life improving work that already goes on.
My predecessor, Rosemary Charsley, did sterling work, and now I will try and follow in her esteemed footsteps.
I have been in and around primary schools much of my working life, having worked as a Playleader, Teacher, Headteacher, and Ofsted Inspector, retiring as a Head two years ago. I hope my experiences and skills will be useful in serving and supporting your school.
Best wishes to you all. Mike Austins. '

HCC Road Safety Scheme in Baldock

Hertfordshire County Council are developing a project to improve the safety of children who walk and cycle in Baldock. They are very keen to hear your views on where you may feel it is currently unsafe for them to cross the road or cycle, as well as your attitudes towards traffic in the town, so they can develop the scheme to have the best possible impact on the safety of your children.

It's a very short survey, we hope you have a couple of minutes to share your views. Please click the link below to access the survey:
Baldock Road Safety

Christmas Discos Thursday 5th December

Year 3 and 4 – 4.00pm until 5.30pm
Year 5 and 6 – 6.00pm until 7.30pm

On 5th December, we will be holding our Christmas discos. If your child would like to attend, we are asking for a payment of £2.00 per child to cover the costs to the school. This can be paid via Arbor. Hotdogs, drinks and various novelty Christmas items will be available to buy on the night – please send your child in with the correct amount of cash for this.

Hotdogs - £1.00
Soft Drinks - £1.00
Christmas novelty items (flashing items/Reindeer headbands) - £2.00
Glow Sticks – 50p

Parents will need to drop off and collect their children from the year 5 doors. Please let office staff know if you have any questions.

Whole school Christmas Panto

We just can't wait for our trip to the Gordon Craig Theatre on 4th December to see Peter Pan in Panto!

Please be reminded that payments for the pantomime school trip are due in no later than the **29th November.** If you have not already done so, please log on to Arbor to make this payment before this date. Please let the office staff know if you have any queries.

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner -11th December

Our annual Christmas Dinner day is always a wonderful event. This year, children can wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day too, in addition to their normal school uniform.

Christmas Events dates

3rd December -Choir singing at McCarthy and Stone 1.30pm
4th December -Whole school Panto visit to the Gordon Craig
5th December -Christmas Discos
11th December -Christmas dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
12th December -Choir singing at Holy Trinity Church 7.00pm
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

Autumn Term 2024

Mon 2 Sept 2024 to Fri 20th Dec 2024 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
OCCASIONAL DAY: Friday 29th November 2024 ***(School closed all day)***

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