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 Junior School 'Mathletes'

This year, we have entered teams into the Hertfordshire Maths Challenges for Years 3, 4 and 5. This is an incredibly challenging competition which is growing year on year. Historically, this was a Year 5 event, but now there are also competitions for both Years 3 and 4 and an exciting opportunity for our pupils to shine! Year 5 have already competed and did incredibly well against children from all the over the world. Thank you to Mrs Davis and Mrs Atkinson for giving up their time to provide our children with this wonderful enrichment activity. Next up are Year 4 who will taking on their challenge in May followed by Year 3 in July. We will let you know how they get on! WE'VE GOT THIS ST MARY'S!

Miss Scammell

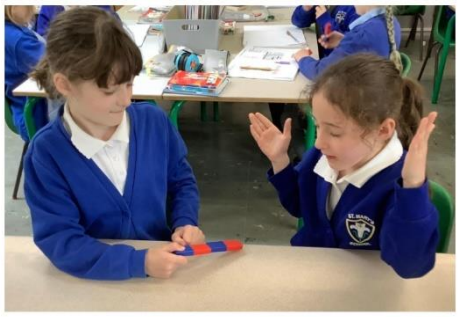
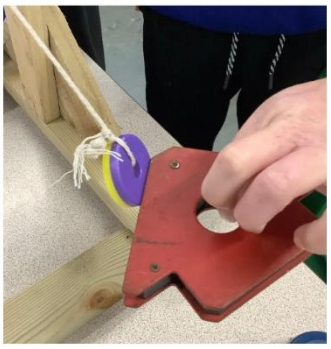
Eco Club

ECO-CLUB

In eco-club this week, we planted some wildflower seeds (thank you Mrs Thompson for the donation) and positioned our bug hotel.

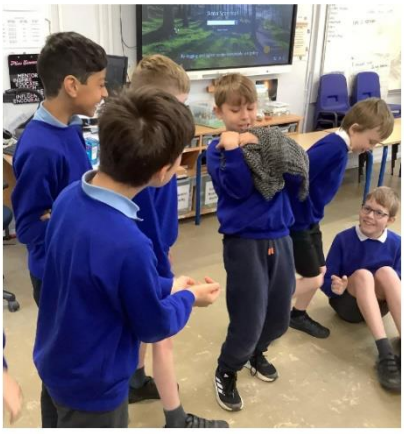
Science

Year 3 have been exploring forces using magnets. The children conducted an experiment to find out which materials would be magnetic.

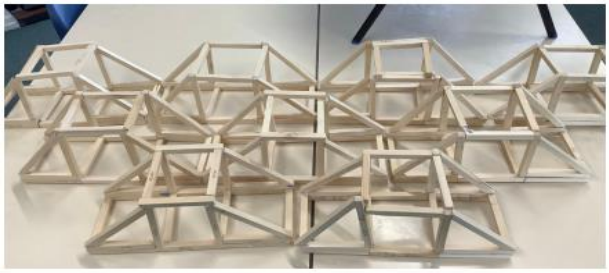
HISTORY

Year 4 have had an interesting start to the term! They had a visitor from the Herts Museum Service in to teach them about Vikings and Anglo Saxons. The children got to handle some interesting artefacts including some very heavy chainmail.



Design Technology

Year 5 have been completing their DT project on bridges. The children have tested different materials (bridges should NOT be made from spaghetti!), measured and cut wood accurately and used the glue guns to build our bridges. Learning about how to use equipment safely was important. Don't they look good!



Y5 BIKEABILITY

This week, some of Year Five have been busy with Bikeability - we started out practicing on the playground, then from Tuesday - Friday, we were out cycling around Baldock working towards our Level 2 certificate.

SEND & INCLUSION

Angels- Autism and ADHD Summer Workshop Information.

Angels have launched a new programme of workshops and support groups for the Summer term starting this week. Please see a copy attached of our full programme together with a summary of the workshops that we are running this term.
To access our free support parents/carers need to become a member by completing our online membership form via this link or the QR code on our leaflet (also attached for more information about the services we offer).
https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/join-us/membership-application-form/

Parent and Carer Information- Protective Behaviours

Parent Highlights:
https://tinyurl.com/DSPLnews
FREE Protective Behaviour course
Greenside Talk: Luke Beardon
Understanding behaviour as communication
School avoidance course (Leaflet attached)

NESSie Language & Communication -Parent leaflet attached.
https://tinyurl.com/DSPLnews
NESSie My World and Me Training for Children and Young People
FOLLOW Campaign - develop speech, language and communication skills at home

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety free parent sessions

Eastern Region Special Operations Unit
ROCU COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

Cyber Choices and Online Safety Events

For parents / carers of children aged 9 and up

Parents are invited to attend two free online sessions to discuss all things “cyber”. These sessions will be suitable for parents/carers of children in **Year 5 (age 9) and above**. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child’s online world and it shouldn’t be missed!

Please see the leaflet attached for further details about how to book this event.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 20th-24Th May

This year, St Mary's Junior School will be taking part in Walk to School Week in May.

We all know the health benefits of walking, so please help us to reduce congestion by supporting children in being more active and help to reduce carbon emissions during 'Walk to School Week'.

We would like to encourage all our pupils to try and walk, cycle or scoot during the week. If it's not possible to walk all the way, it would be great if you could park away from school and walk or scoot the last part of the journey.

YEAR 6 SATS

Year 6 end of KS2 National Curriculum Assessment Tests will take place **Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May 2024.**

It is extremely important that, during this week, **all children are in school and are on time.**

Date	Subject	Test papers
Monday 13 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling	Paper 1: Questions Paper 1: Spelling
Tuesday 14 May	English reading	English reading
Wednesday 15 May	Mathematics	Paper 1: Arithmetic Paper 2: Reasoning
Thursday 16 May	Mathematics	Paper 3: Reasoning

YEAR 6 SATS BREAKFAST

Once again, we will be hosting a SATs breakfast each morning for our Year 6 children 13th-16th May. This is free of charge to parents. We hope that the children will feel happier having an informal chat to their friends/teachers over breakfast, rather than going straight into the test environment from the playground. Please find the letter attached with more detail. Please return the reply slip by Wednesday 1st May.

NON-UNIFORM DAY and CAKE SALE Friday 3rd May

Next Friday, our Gardening Club children will be hosting a non-uniform day and cake sale to raise money to buy a new shed for their gardening area. They would be so grateful if parents help them with their fundraising efforts by paying **£1 per child CASH** (or whatever you can afford to donate) for each child to come into school in non-uniform clothing.

In addition, they will also be holding a cake sale at break time and after school (depending on how many cakes are donated!) Cakes will be on sale for **50p each**, so please send your children into school with **CASH ONLY** for this part of the fundraising.

Could you help us by donating either home-made or shop bought cakes? If so, they should be nut free and brought into school to be handed to class teachers on Thursday 31st April or Friday 1st May.

Thank you!

From St Mary's Junior Gardening Club and Mrs Simmons

We have noticed that an increasing number of children are coming into school wearing colours that do not align with our school uniform policy. We ask for parents to support us in ensuring that children come into school wearing school colours only for both a normal school day and for PE. Parents will be contacted by class teachers if children are wearing incorrect uniform.

Below is a reminder of our school uniform policy.

Royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan Blue or white shirt/polo shirt Black or grey skirt or pinafore Tailored black or grey long/short trousers (No leggings please)	**All children should have black school shoes (not trainers)**

P. E. 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 please. Trainers should only be worn for outdoor PE and should be in line with school colours (either black, blue, white or grey).

Herts Fire Service Visit

On Friday 17th May, the Herts Fire Service will be visiting St Mary's Junior to lead an assembly on Fire Safety.

During the assembly they will be talking about fire safety in the home, the dangers of setting fires, hoax calls, what the fire service does. The children will also be able to ask questions. **Have you had a free Fire Service Safety check at your home?** If you are interested in this, the Fire Safety Team will be on the Yr5/6 playground with the fire engine after school for children to see and parents to sign up.

Key dates for next term:

Mon 6th May – BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 13th -Thurs 16th May – Year 6 SATs tests
Mon 3rd June – INSET Day
Wed 5th- Sat 8th June – Year 6 PGL Residential
Frid 7th June – Year 5 swimming lessons start
Weds 19th – Frid 21st June – Year 4 Cuffley Camp Residential
Weds 26th June – District Sports event
Tues 2nd July (pm) – Sports Day
Monday 8th July -Open session for parents
Monday 15th July – End of year reports to parents
Frid 19th July – End of term 1pm

PARENT OPEN SESSION -Monday 8th July 3.30-5pm

After school on this day, parents are warmly invited to come into school with their child to look at their child's work and explore the rest of the school. Herts Catering will be offering food samples, to allow parents to see what is on offer as part of school meals choices.

Attachments with this newsletter:

- Cyber Services leaflet
- Fire service poster
- Protective Behaviour parent leaflet
- Angels – Autism and ADHD workshops for parents
- Nessie parent leaflet
- Sports Day pamphlet

Diary dates

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
OCCASTIONAL DAY: Friday 29th November 2024