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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Issue: 52 28th March 2024

Curriculum & Enrichment

This week, we have had a whole school Healthy Living week and had so much fun! All year groups had a healthy smoothie bike workshop, where the children worked together to blend smoothies using the bikes to power the blenders. The children were then able to taste the smoothies! 🙂

During lunchtime on Tuesday, Herts Catering prepared plant based options for the children to try and also made some fabulous fruit kebabs for dessert. Children in Year 5 have talked about how a healthy mind is as important as a healthy body. They spent some time in the sunshine writing poetry using their senses or adding to their free writing journals. They spent time in the wildlife area taking in their surroundings and listening to the sounds of nature around them.

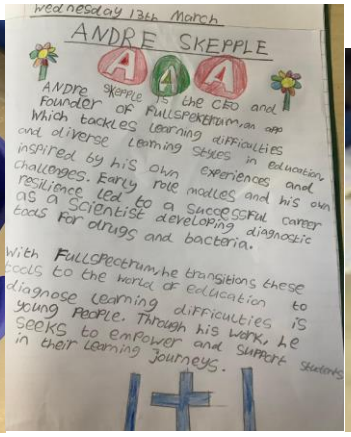
On Wednesday this week, all children had a yoga session in the hall with a professional yoga instructor – this was enjoyed by all. Even the staff had a one hour yoga session after school!

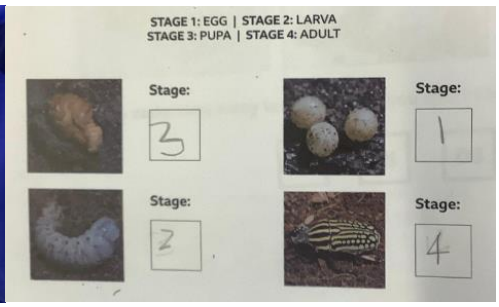
During the week of 11th-15th March, all year groups took part in British Science Week. The week provided the children with a wonderful opportunity to explore and enjoy science.

Throughout the week, all classes completed the BBC live lesson and an activity relating to smashing stereotypes. Class teachers then planned a range of other investigations for the children to participate in. It was wonderful seeing the variety of tasks completed by the children.

We hope the children enjoyed their week and spoke about the activities they completed at home.

Mrs Simmons





Big Plastic Count

Throughout Science week, many of our families particpated in the Big Plastic Count. From Monday morning to Sunday evening, every item of plastic which was thrown away or recyled was counted.
Thank you to all the families who took part – including staff.

Mrs Simmons

MUSIC

On Friday 15th March, some of our children represented the school on the Primary Brass Day at Stevenage Music Centre.

Over the course of the day, they completed various activities to develop their ensemble skills and learnt to play some pieces together. They then shared what they had been practising in a performance for parents and carers at the end of the day and all did a great job.

Well done to all of them!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

We have an increasing number of children who are coming into school very early each morning, when the playground is not supervised. Parental responsibility remains in place until the children come into our care at 8.50am.

Changes after Easter

After Easter, both the Yr 3&4 and Y5&6 playground gates will remain locked until **8.40am**. From 8.40am, a member of the Senior Leadership team will open the gates and supervise any children on the playground until they are taken into school at 8.50am by class teachers.

If you child walks to school or are dropped off by parents, please ensure that they do not arrive before **8.40am.**

Many thanks for your help with trying to keep all our children safe.

Do you have an interesting job that could inspire our pupils?

At St Mary's Junior School, our vision: **'Care. Believe. Succeed.'** underpins everything that we do along with our six core values: **ambition, independence, growth, cooperation, inclusivity** and **curiosity**.

In order to promote this vision and these values, we would love your help!

We are looking for representatives from a variety of different careers who would be willing to present an assembly to Key Stage 2 children all about their career, what it involves and how they got into it? We would love to have men and women from a variety of different backgrounds who work in a wide range of different fields, be it public services, engineering, hospitality, law, construction, finance or anything else that could inspire our pupils!

If you feel that it this is something that interests you, or you know someone suitable, please contact the school office either by email (admin@st-marysjm-baldock.herts.sch.uk) or by telephone (01462 892156) to express your interest.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Anna Scammell

Assistant Head teacher

Forest School

St Mary's is well on the way to becoming a Forest Schools provider and Mrs Law is working hard to develop our environmental area to enable her to start working with children.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you have access to any of the following that you'd be kind enough to donate to help resource our Forest School, we would really appreciate you sending them into school:

- Wellies that your children have grown out of
- Large logs or sticks
- Pine cones
- Natural rope

SPORTS UPDATE

We saw superb effort by our hockey team on 26th March in a Hockey festival. They scored plenty of goals, winning many games against some strong teams.

Our footballers played in a friendly festival on 25th March against Hartsfield and St Thomas More. There were 19 matches after school! It was a terrific afternoon, and I was so proud of the improvement our teams have made

over the year. For our Year 6's, it was a great way to finish their football at St Marys. And for our Year 5's, the future only looks rosy for them heading into next season.

Well done also to our Year 4 football team. On 21st March, they played some great football against Weston and Norton and really enjoyed their first football outing for the school.

CHAMPIONS for the first time!

What an amazing afternoon yesterday for our Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket Team on Friday 9th March.
As the afternoon went on, the team were winning, and winning, and winning some more. They even set a St Mary's record high innings of 79 in one game; that is higher than what our year 6's achieved in PE last week!
The surprise on their faces when they made the semi-final was delightful.
After cruising through this game, it was the final v Pixmore.
Again, the children went into the match buzzing and saying they didn't mind what the outcome was because they were thrilled to make the final. The attitude they showed throughout, along with their talent and training they put in, are the reasons why this team came out on top and will now go to represent North Herts in the County Tournament! I'm so proud of them all.
At the County event on 19th March, they played amazing cricket winning their first 3 games. They then lost to the eventual winners by just 4. This resulted in a playoff for third place where we put up a high score of 60, but the other team got 66 to pip us into bronze position. The children showed wonderful spirit throughout and have been a privilege to take to these two tournaments.

Key dates for next term:
Monday 15th April – INSET Day
Friday 19th April – Year 4 swimming lessons start
Wk of 22nd April – Year 5 Bikability sessions
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 – Year 4 Cuffley Camp Residential
Weds 26th June – District Sports event
Tues 2nd July (pm) – Sports Day
Frid 19th July – End of term 1pm

Thank you to all our wonderful parents for your support this term. We wish all our St Mary's families a wonderful Easter – enjoy the time with loved ones and eat lots of chocolate!

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
OCCASTIONAL DAY: Friday 29th November 2024