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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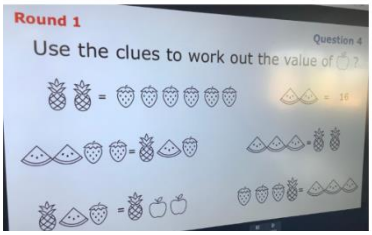
Curriculum & Enrichment

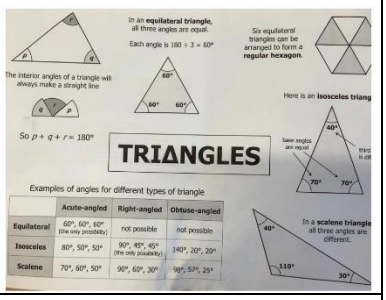
HISTORY

Our Year 6 children completed some wonderful World War II research projects during half term. We have had an amazing selection of models, posters, videos, PowerPoint presentations, radio show scripts, fact files, food made with World War II recipes etc. The children spent time sharing their learning with the rest of their class and we are so proud of them all. Well done, Year 6!

MATHS

Our Year 5 'Mathletes' took part in the HFL Year 5 Maths Challenge last week. They were faced with many different number problems to solve, in addition to visual estimation, angle measuring and algebra. They certainly did both themselves and St Mary's proud and worked brilliantly together as a team – well done, you are all awesome!





On World Book Day yesterday, we chose a non-fiction focus for our reading and writing on this day!

Our vision was to create a St Mary's encyclopaedia with the aim of encouraging reading non-fiction texts for pleasure. The children came dressed as an entry for this encyclopaedia and we had a variety of famous people, current or historical characters, creatures, interesting objects…. to name but a few!

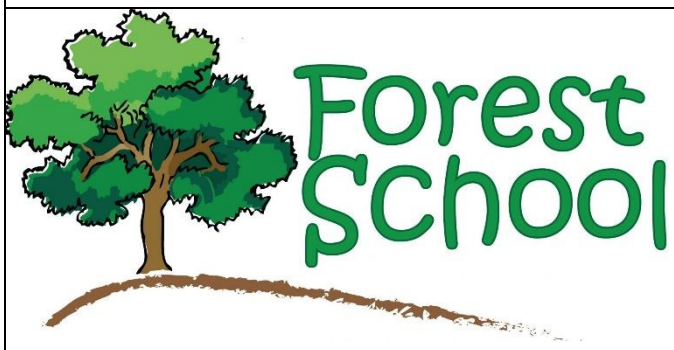
The children brought in a written fact about the item/person they came dressed as and we had a wonderful day. In class, each year group focused on non-fiction writing and the development of grammar and sentences, alongside key features of their chosen genre of writing.

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

At St Marys 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

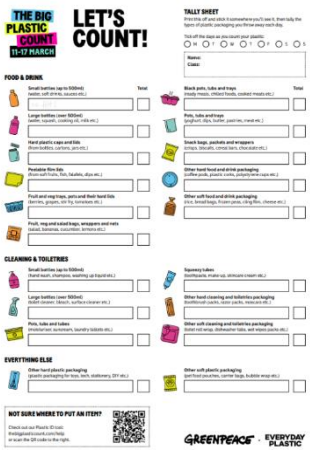


St Mary's is well on the way to becoming a Forest Schools provider and Mrs Law is working hard to develop our environmental area to enable her to start working with children.

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



The Big Plastic Count

Yesterday, your child brought home a letter and tally sheet for 'The Big Plastic Count'.

From Monday morning (11th March) until Sunday evening (17th March) we are asking families to count the plastic they throw away - either recycled or placed in the bin. Tally sheets are then to be returned to school on Monday 18th March.

This is an investigation led by Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic. The results are then used to try to convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to initiate global talks which could finally phase out plastic production for good.

We all need to work together to make a positive change.

Thank you for your support and taking part in this project,
Mrs Simmons

SPORTS UPDATE

Three of our Year 4 girls competed on Saturday 2nd March in the first ever Girls Touch Rugby Tournament in the UK, representing Letchworth. They were absolute superstars! They ran like the wind, took no prisoners and demonstrated brilliant teamwork - even adapting to new rules brought in on the day in moments. The coaches were thrilled with each and every one of them.

The girls were presented with medals by England player, Ella Wyrwas. Well done, girls – we are super proud of you all!

Staff news

At the end of half term, Mrs McQuade left us briefly to go on maternity leave. I'm delighted to announce that she has had a beautiful baby boy –welcome to the world William McQuade! Congratulations to Mrs McQuade and her husband on his safe arrival – he's gorgeous! 💙💙💙

St Mary's PTA

Can you help?

A reminder that we have a PTA EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) next week on **Wednesday 13th March** at **7.30pm via Zoom.** Please sign up (link below) to receive an agenda and attend if you are able, as we will be discussing the future of the PTA and hopefully voting in new committee members.

Log in details: volunteersignup.org/TQPPB

Recap of current vacancies:
As you will now know, the Chair (Emma Rowe) and Vice Chair of Juniors (Kate French) have resigned from their PTA roles. The PTA have been advertising for replacement candidates to fill the position of Chair, Vice Chair of Juniors and the already-existing vacancy of Vice Chair of Infants and there has been some interest.

For the Committee to function properly - and in accordance with its Constitution - there must be at least two people on the Committee who can undertake the key roles of Chair, Treasurer, Legal, H&S, Secretary, Liaison.

The original intention had been for the Treasurer (Becca Edwards) and Secretary (Jenny Patrick) to remain in post until the end of the PTA year. This is no longer possible and so there are now five vacancies on the Committee, at least two of which need filling immediately in order for the group to operate and move forward.

The Committee are jointly responsible for all efforts of the PTA and its governance – for example, ensuring you have the correct gambling licenses in place, completing annual financial reporting, risk assessments, etc as well as actually delivering an event or activity itself.

We are very hopeful that new members will join the Committee and take up these roles and both Infants and Junior schools are keen to continue with a joint PTA moving forwards. However, in the event that a Committee cannot be formed, there is a final alternative worth noting. Each school can create its own PTA to be run in accordance with the priorities of that institution and for the exclusive benefit of its pupils.

If you are interested in filling one of the above roles, please reach out to Mrs Britton (preferably before the meeting) to discuss how you might be able to contribute.

Best wishes, The Committee of St Mary's Schools PTA

Parent Support Workshops

Please see attached the most up to date Parents, Carers and Young People Local Offer Weekly Round Up Issue: 89.
This contains so many important contacts, in addition to organised events, workshops and information to help parents of children with SEND or those who struggle with their Mental Health and Well-Being.

The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer

The Local Offer lets parents and young people know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them.

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx

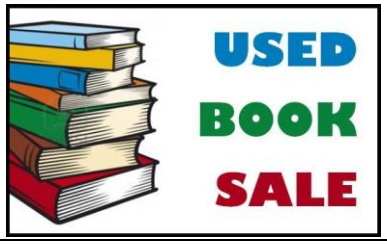
PUPiL PARLiAMENT

HOT DOG FRIDAYS

Mrs Castle and her team will be selling hot dogs this Friday on the Year 5&6 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 Year 5/6 playground after school today!

Pupil Parliament children will also be hosting a book sale, alongside the hot dog stall on Friday 8th March. All books can be purchased for a minumum donation of 20p each (bargain!) Please bring your small change and grab a bargain!



Attachments with this newsletter:

- Parents, Carers and Young People Local Offer Weekly Round Up Issue: 89
- Parent letter – Recycling Project
- The Big Plastic Count tally sheet

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