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

Year 3 Geography: Locational Quiz Club!

During the summer term some of our Year 3 will have the chance to take part in our lunchtime Locational Quiz club, using the website ilike2learn.com to enhance their geography skills in a fun and interactive way.

ilike2learn.com offers a variety of engaging quizzes and games that allow students to explore different locations around the globe while testing their knowledge of countries, capitals, and geographical features. The platform is user-friendly and designed specifically for younger learners, making it a perfect fit for our curriculum.

As part of the Locational Quiz Club, our Year 3 students will have the chance to challenge themselves weekly by aiming to beat their own scores from the previous week. This friendly competition will encourage them to practice regularly and improve their skills over time.

If you want to challenge yourselves at home too then follow the link below.

http://www.ilike2learn.com/

Autism Awareness Month

On Monday 28th April, we were visited by Caroline from ANGELS support group.

She came to speak to us all during the month of April about AUTISM. Now, we know that many of our pupils and families know lots about autism, but it was great listening to Caroline speak about it to us in assembly. She showed us a great video called Amazing Things Happen by Alexander Amelines (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo)

Angels supports families of autistic children and/or children who have ADHD (and those awaiting diagnosis). All Angels staff are parents of neurodivergent children.

Angels is an experience-led charity, based in Hertfordshire, which provides individualised, professional expertise and advice. We work alongside parents to build understanding of their child's condition, their rights, ensuring their needs are met at home, at school, and in the community. Their key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.

- **Group meetings, workshops and individual support for parents/ carers**
- **Find support**
- **Share ideas, experiences and concerns**
- **Reduce isolation**
- **Help your child reach their potential**

Please see their website- Home - Angels Support Group- for more details on information for online support groups, meet up and courses.

This week, we had the pleasure of joining in with our school choir to sing a range of songs to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. The choir were fantastic!

In class, children also learnt about how England celebrated the end of World War 2 and what life was like for children during this time.

Staffing news

We have a new teacher, Miss Williams, who will be teaching in Mulberry Class for three days per week to release Miss Scammell so that she can focus on strategic leadership alongside Mrs Britton. Miss Williams is also teaching in Sycamore Class on Thursday and Friday afternoons. After SATS, Miss Williams will be teaching in Sycamore all day on Thursdays and Fridays until Mrs Lincoln has recovered from surgery.

We also have a new Higher Level Teaching Assistant who has joined our team this term. **Mrs Callington** has a wealth of experience within education settings and we are delighted that she will be working with children in all year groups, both in a teaching capacity and with intervention groups.

On Sunday 27th April, Miss Davidson ran (45th London Marathon) 26.2 miles raising money for charity. She spoke to the children about the joy of challenging herself and feeling part of a team. We are so proud of her!

School Vision and Values Questionnaire

Thank you so much to all parents who completed our Vision and Values questionnaire before Easter. We had **72 responses** from parents, which is fantastic!

A summary of some of the responses we received are attached to this newsletter.

SEND Meetings

Thank you to all our families who attended their Spring Term SEND reviews. I am busy updating the Provision Plans reflecting those meetings alongside the class teachers.
Summer Term SEND Meetings will take place on:-
Tuesday 24th June- Year 6
Wednesday 25th June - Year 4
Wednesday 2nd July- Year 5
Thursday 3rd July- Year 3
Booking instructions will be sent out after May Half Term Holiday with exact classes for each time. Mrs Reeve

PCSO Parent Talk Thursday 5th June 5pm.

Following on from the PSCO discussions with children in school, PCSO Shelley Gordon and her team will be delivering a talk to parents in the school hall on Thursday 5th June.
The talk will be linked to children's use of devices (phones, tablets, gaming consoles etc), social media and how we can keep them safe online.
The use of group chats will also be discussed and how parents can help us protect their child from being party to the use of inappropriate language, racism and threatening behaviour.
Parents will also be guided on how to add correct filtering settings onto children's devices.
Please fill in the short Google Form using the link below, if you would like to attend:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVQ9XPOpDMipDII9ju-wumRPrJuTfBU6U-wwR3pRTWJrv5aQ/viewform?usp=dialog

Parenting workshops

'Empowering Parents to help children thrive' is a fantastic online workshop that equips parents with the knowledge and tools to foster mental resilience and emotional wellbeing for themselves and their children. Why not check it out using the link below?
https://bounceforward.com/bounce-forward-raise-resilience-hkf/

St Mary's Junior Greenway Sponsored Walk Tuesday 8th July 2025 9am-12.00pm

SAVE the DATE

Children and staff at St Mary's will be taking part in a sponsored walk around parts of the Greenway to raise funds towards new Chromebooks for the children. Parents are also welcome to join in this event, so please add this date to your diaries! Please look out for further details about this event in the coning weeks.

Attachments with this newsletter

- Curriculum maps for summer term
- Vision and Values questionnaire summary for parents

Summer Term 2025

INSET DAY: 22nd April 2025
Summer Term: 22nd April to 23rd July 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 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
Summer Holidays: 24th July to 2nd September 2025

Autumn Term 2025

INSET DAY: 3rd September 2025
Autumn Term: 3rd September 2025 to 19th December 2025
Autumn Half Term: 27th October to 31st October 2025
Occasional Day: 28th November 2025
Autumn Term Ends: 19th December 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Spring Term 2026

INSET DAY: 5th January 2026
Spring Term: 5th January 2026 to 27th March 2026
Spring Half Term: 16th February to 20th February 2026
Easter Term Ends: 27th March 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
Easter Holidays: 30th March to 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

INSET DAY: 13th April 2026
Summer Term: 13th April to 23rd July 2026
MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 4th May 2026
Spring Half Term: 25th May to 29th May 2026
INSET DAY: Monday 1st June 2026
Summer Term Ends: 22nd July 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***
INSET DAY: Thursday 23rd July 2026
Summer Holidays: 23rd July to 3rd September 2026