

Dream, believe, achieve

Fortnightly Newsletter

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Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has shown support and understanding during these difficult times.

Collective Worship

We have introduced our value for this term, which is acceptance. We have discussed accepting ourselves for who we are as well as accepting others. We have learnt a beautiful song about acceptance called 'I am accepted, I am forgiven.'

Curriculum round up
EYFS

This half term in EYFS we have been exploring 'Fairy Tales'. We have read a range of fairy tales, explored characters and acted out parts of the story. We have been constructing bridges, castles and beanstalks.

YEAR 1/2

We have launched into our Castles theme by exploring the countries in the United Kingdom and where we are positioned in the world. We have identified the capital city of each of these countries and located landmarks within each.

YEAR 3/4

Years 3 and 4 have excitedly launched into their new topic of Castles this term. It began with a curious letter being sent to each class that asks that we surrender to the King William I.

YEAR 5/6

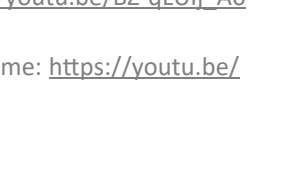
Will be investigating if all castles were built at the same time and how they have changed over time. We have looked at the main features of Motte and Bailey castles.

Parent's Evening

Thank you to the 87% of parents who attended parents evening. If you did not attend and would like to see your child's class teacher, please speak to the school office.

Prayer Space

Thank you once again to the amazing team from St Mary's Church who ran prayer space for the children this week. The children have had a lovely time learning more about the values and having time for self reflection.



PTFA

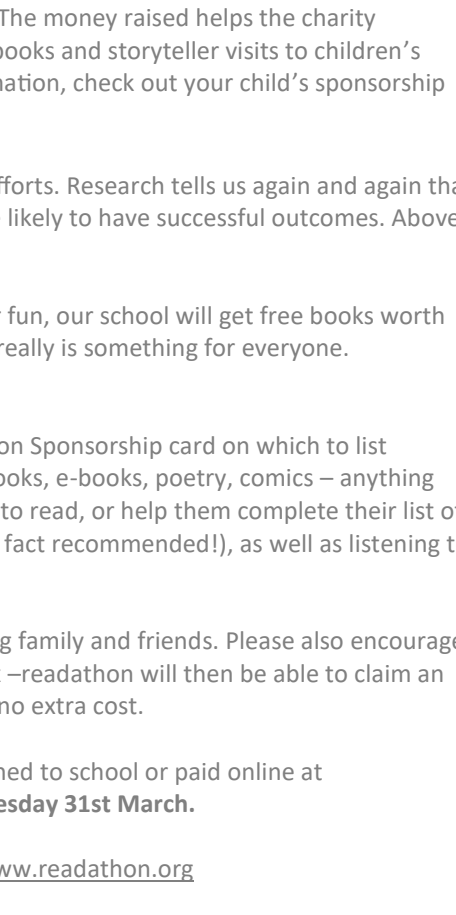
Disco

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the disco last week. We can confirm we raised over £500 for our playground project

Smarties Challenge

Thank you to all the wonderful children (and parents) who helped with our smarties challenge. We had a whopping 118 tubes returned and collected an amazing £796 for our PTFA playground fund!

- Forgiveness 17 tubes £111.81
Acceptance 17 tubes £111.35
Kindness 15 tubes £107.82
Respect 12 tubes £95.15
Trust 9 tubes £60.80
Justice 8 tubes £77.60
Perseverance 8 tubes £63.80
Friendship 7 tubes £47.51
Honesty 7 tubes £45.35
Peace 7 tubes £32.40
Wisdom 6 tubes £23.10
Hope 5 tubes £12.77



There is a prize for the classes who brought back the most tubes and for the most amount of money raised.

Again, thank you on behalf of the PTFA to bookers who made it possible and got us off to a positive start.

Sports Relief Week

We have had a great week celebrating sport relief. Each day the children have taken part in a daily mile and it has been wonderful to see older and younger children walking/running together.

Thank you to those children and parents who have donated to sport relief over the week. We will let you know how much we have raised in the next newsletter.

Parking around school

We are growing more and more concerned regarding the amount of vehicles that are parking down Latimer Close at the beginning and end of the school day. Please can we ask that you don't drive down Latimer Close and park in one of the many carparks around the school.

Science Week

On Wednesday 11th March, we all had a very exciting day on Science Day! The theme for this year was all about 'our diverse planet'.

In the afternoon, we were all tasked with designing and making a rocket to win the race to space. Each class chose their best rocket to launch using our stomp rocket launcher and we all went outside to see whose rocket would be launched the furthest.

Why not explore our diverse planet at home or find out facts about the other planets by listening to the solar system song: https://youtu.be/BZ-qLUjI_A0

Or why not try building your own stomp rocket at home: https://youtu.be/q1FqI_HbAZ8

World Book Day

Firstly, we would like to say a BIG thank you to our amazing PTFA who organised and provided our Big Book Breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many parents, family and friends celebrating reading together.

After breakfast, children then went back to their classrooms where they began their days by watching an author's masterclass. From this they were set an array of reading challenges from creating their own poems to designing their own superhero powers.

At the end of the day, the whole school came together to share the fantastic work they had been doing in the day and take part in a reading quiz - students vs pupils! It was close but the teachers just about scraped a win!

Sponsored Reading

We are running a Readathon Sponsored Read from Thursday 5th March to Tuesday 31st March and we'd like your child to join in.

Readathon is the UK's national sponsored reading even for schools. Readathon encourages children to read for pleasure – an activity proven to increase children's chances of success and personal happiness for the rest of their lives.

Readathon motivates reluctant readers to give reading a go, and keen readers to read more widely. It works because children choose what they want to read – they are not being assessed. It's all about reading for fun.

Please do support your child's reading efforts. Research tells us again and again that children who read for pleasure are more likely to have successful outcomes. Above all, we hope they have fun!

As well as encouraging pupils to read for fun, our school will get free books worth 20% of our sponsorship total – so there really is something for everyone.

- 1. Your child's been given a Readathon Sponsorship card on which to list whatever they will enjoy reading. Books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes!
2. Help your child find sponsors among family and friends. Please also encourage UK tax payers to tick the GiftAid box – readathon will then be able to claim an extra 25% from the Government at no extra cost.
3. Ensure all sponsor money is returned to school or paid online at www.readathon.org/sponsor by Tuesday 31st March.

For any more information please visit www.readathon.org

Thank you for your support – happy reading

New to St Mary's – Mrs Jackson - Family Support Worker

For those of you who have not met me. My Name is Karen Jackson; I would like to introduce myself as the Family Support Worker here at St Mary's.

My role is to promote effective relationships between home and school, developing and supporting links, to maximise a strong working relationship between parents and school.

I have over 20 years' experience, of working with Children and Families in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. To underpin my work, I completed a Degree at the University of Bedfordshire, studying, safeguarding, child development, sociology, psychology, and global studies, law and youth justice.

I can support families in different ways.

My role is to bridge the gap between home and school, so that adults in your child's life can work together to enable your child to be happy and successful in their learning.

I can be the lead professional in the Early Help Assessment process. An EHA is often put in place, to give you and your child the help needed as quickly as possible to prevent the issues becoming even greater.

My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behavior and wellbeing.

I can meet with you at home or in school at a time to suit yourself. Advice and support is confidential although concerns relating to the safeguarding of a child will always be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Support for pupils includes:

- Promoting good attendance and punctuality
Promoting self-esteem and confidence
Promoting positive behavior and positive attitudes to learning.
Referrals to either other staff members, enabling the pupil to receive interventions designed to help and support within school. In addition, referrals can be made to outside agencies as necessary.

Support for families includes:

- Providing information and signposting to other services in the local area
Liaising with a range of external services such as housing and Social Care
Assistance in completing paperwork and forms e.g. housing, supporting documents in relation to Mrs. school places and benefits.
Attendance, alongside Mrs Owen's. We meet with parents to work with them on achieving the expected 100% attendance.
Advice and support in promoting positive behaviour at home. Making referrals to outside agencies and booking places on parenting courses.

I have set up a uniform exchange program here at St Mary's. Uniform Exchange, works by, recycling school uniform, instead of discarding items that no longer fit your child, you donate them.

As a school, we also want to do our bit, to protect the environment, recycling reduces the amount thrown away, resulting in less landfill. Any items we cannot recycle will be donated to a charity such as Oxfam, who are able to use them.

Donate:

Uniform exchange will recycle the school uniform you give and pass it on FREE OF CHARGE to families here at St Mary's. Parents can drop school uniform donations off to me, in the Family Support room.

Order:

In order to access the 'FREE' school uniform, please complete a request form, available from me. The aim is to turn the request around in 14 days and made available for collection. During busy periods such school holidays, it could take longer.

Please note:

- All requests will be handled confidentially.
You can use this service as many times as you require.
The request forms will be returned with the uniform.
All requests will be handled confidentially.

St Mary's family grocery support.

'Because no one should go hungry.' Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, the Trussell Trust's food bank network distributed 1.6 million three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis, a 19% increase on the previous year. More than half a million of these went to children. 1 in 6 people have gone without food themselves to afford to feed their families.

The aim is to provide families with food at a time of crisis and help by supporting them, and help identify any underlying issues. I have set this grocery support scheme up with the support of Kettering Food Bank.

Donations: please either drop off to me, in my office, or give to Lucy Lorentzen, our safeguarding governor, or Kelly Cooke, our lunchtime lead. There will be updated lists for products we are short of, displayed on the door outside of my room.

Needed: nonperishable products please such as:

- Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Dried pasta, Coffee, Tea bags, Biscuits, Cereal, squash, Pasta sauce, Sugar, Dog/Cat food, Baby wipes, Nappies various sizes. Rice, cooking sauces.
If you would like to donate any fresh produce, such as milk, cheese, fruit or Veg, we can accept these as we have a fridge to store a small amount of these.

We also need some fresh produce, such fruit, vegetables, milk, cheese, eggs and yogurts, albeit there is limited space in the family room fridge. Our aim is to provide healthy options, in line with our healthy school policy.

Support: If you would like to access this support, please complete a request form, these are available from either Kelly, Lucy, or myself.

Please note:

- All requests are treated, confidentially.
You can use this service as many times as needed. However continued reliance on the service, will require a meeting with me, to discuss any underlying issues.
We aim to process requests as quickly as possible; there may be a delay at busy times.
We will try hard to provide a wide range of products in your pack, as well as products you need.

'Drop In Sessions'

My Parent Drop-In sessions are: Friday mornings 9:30am – 10.30am ON: 20th March, 27th March, 24th April, and the 1st May. I am always happy to meet parents outside of the drop in mornings, especially if you require more than a ten-minute appointment.

Contact details:

I am normally in school every day between 8.30am and 3.30pm. Telephone my work mobile: 07709551172. If I am unable to answer, please either leave a voice message or send me a text, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

School phone number: 01536 722757

Email address: karen.jackson@stmaryscebl.info.

Healthy lunches

We are proud to hold this award and would like your help to ensure we keep it. This means we do not allow fizzy drinks in school and ask that sweet treats are kept to a minimum in lunch boxes (small treats such as a fun size bar or small haribo packet).

Morning break

At morning break, children are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack (provided for EYFS and key stage 1). This could be fresh or dried fruit, cereal bars, fruit wenders and unhealthy snacks such as crisps are prohibited.

Drinks

We ask children to bring in water bottles with water only to keep them hydrated during the day. Water or juice/squash can be brought in for lunchtime but not for in class.

Nuts

We have some children who have a serious nut allergy and so we ask that parents do not send their children in with any product containing nuts (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella).

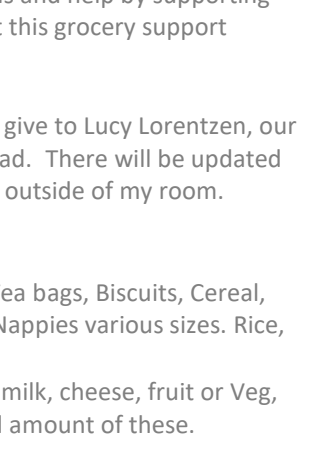
Questions

If you have any questions you would like to ask, or any details that need clarifying, please contact the school office.

We appreciate your support with helping to keep our children healthy and maintain our Healthy School's Award.

PE

NHS guidelines recommended that children aged 5-18 years should aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a day, across the week. At St Marys we are committed to encouraging and facilitating Healthy and Active Lifestyles to our pupils, and offer lunchtime activities, clubs and high intensity PE lessons each day.



Sport Relief- As part of Sport Relief week, all pupils have been involved in addition physical activity. We have launched the Daily Mile initiative, which allows all pupils 15 minutes of running/jogging each day. It was fantastic to see all the pupils exercising together in the fresh air.

Years 1-6 embraced an Alternative sport festival, with Archery, Tri Golf and New Age Kurling on offer.

The majority of pupils tried a new sport, and after expressed their delight and enjoyment. Please note all sports are offered as an extracurricular club in school, so they have the opportunity to continue to participate in and learn the sport.

Personal Best Challenges- Personal Best challenges practice stations are being set up every lunchtime by year 6 leaders, it is fantastic to see so many pupils of varied ages voluntarily practicing the skills with self drive to improve.

All challenges require little to no equipment, so children are able to practice at home too. Challenge cards can be viewed on the playground and in the school hall for further info.

Clubs- Clubs have continued this term offering a broad range of sports offered. Look out for the latest letter to sign up for next terms clubs, but be quick, places fill fast.

Next terms clubs include: Gym Beats, New Age Kurling, Netball, Football, Table Tennis, Tri Golf, Dodgeball and Archery.

Competitions- St Marys progressed to the county finals in x2 year 3/4 Gymnastics competitions, x2 year 5/6 Gymnastics competitions and year 1/2

New Age Kurling, St Marys was well represented and we are incredibly proud of the pupils who participated, and their dedication to practice and prepare.

12 year 5/6 pupils represented St Marys in an Inter School Dodgeball tournament, and our year 5/6 Netball and Football teams played their first two league fixtures, in which we drew and lost

PE Kit- A polite reminder that Pupils require full PE kit on school premises Monday-Friday each week.

Despite the cold and wet weather we will be completing lessons outside. Therefore please ensure pupils have suitable PE kit for both indoor and outdoor lessons.

Long hair is required to be tied back and earrings removed.

I hope you are all looking forward to an exciting and active 2020, we have lots planned for you.

SEND

We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Hello everyone! We have now finished our second review period for your child's ISP and you should now have your child's new Individual Support Plan (ISP). This new plan shows your child's new targets and the interventions and support that are now in place. The next review will be at the end of May/beginning of June. I will write to you again in the Summer term, with arrangements for these reviews.

SEND questionnaire: Thank you for completing the questionnaire about how we are supporting children with SEND. The average score for the answers was 4/5, indicating that parents are generally pleased with the support that is in place for children with SEND. The lowest average score was 3.7 for pupils knowing their targets, and the highest average score was 4.6 for the information on this newsletter. I will be working with staff to ensure that pupils know their targets, so they can get even better results from interventions: if you know what you are trying to improve, you will make better improvements.

Our next Coffee morning 'drop in' is on Tuesday 17th March from 8.45 – 9.30 in the Rainbow Room. Karen Jackson (our Family Support Worker) and Emma Campbell (our Learning Mentor) will also be there.

Everyone is welcome

to come to these. Your input is key to our success. Come along for a chat, some support or to pass on ideas. There are always biscuits as well! If you have any specific interests you would like to discuss, please let me know.

We continue to use the Keys to Happier Living with many of our children, but these ideas are relevant for us all. Have a look at the website www.actionforhappiness.org. The keyrings are ready to go, and can be added to if you want to start collecting them this week. It was great that some of you were able to recognise my World Book Day costume and even better that conversations and discussions have started about the resources and ideas. Keep sharing your thoughts with others, to spread happiness!

Research shows that there are particular actions that have a significant impact on our sense of happiness and wellbeing. Mrs Campell, our Learning Mentor, has the key fobs. Just remind your child to come and collect one from her after each newsletter is published. This is the next one.....

Infographic with three tips: 1. Resilience: Find ways to bounce back. Ask for help today or confide in a friend. 2. Being able to cope with situations that are out of our control - How relevant is this at the moment? Keeping conversations going with others enables us to deal with things more positively. Seek out your positive pals! 3. Resilience: Find ways to bounce back. Ask for help today or confide in a friend.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday 17th March for a cuppa and a catch up.

Together, we can make a difference! Mel Barron Inclusion and Pastoral Leader

New School Website

We have now sorted out our new school website. Please pop over and have a look at www.stmaryscebl.info