



ST MARY'S C. E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dream, believe, achieve

Fortnightly Newsletter

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of the new term. We hope all our new children have settled in well and feel like part of the family.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We have continued with our value of friendship. We have looked at what being prejudice means and how we need to make up our own minds and make sure we are not prejudice against anyone.

We have also had a you tube link to a worship from the Reverend Jez of St Mary's church. Jez introduced himself to our new children and showed the children 'their' church. He began lighting a candle for light and warmth and linked that to Jesus being our light and warmth. He told the children the Joy of Jesus and his special friends. He talked about the lessons we can learn and how we too can be good friends.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our online Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 22nd October. The children have been busy rehearsing this and a video of their performance will be uploaded to google classrooms on Friday 23rd October. Your children will only be in the video if you have given full consent for them to be in it.

Thank you to those parents and children who have donated to a food bank or dropped off items to our school collection (outside the front office).

BRIGHT SPARKS

Bright Sparks will be returning after half term (Monday 2nd November). This will run from 8am to 8.50am and from 3.15pm—5.30pm prompt. Prices are £ 4.20 for half sessions and £8.40 for a full session and can be booked by emailing receptionist@stmarysceb1.info. Places are limited to 15 and are allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis. In school children are in phase bubbles (EYFS, 1/2, 3/4 & 5/6) but this will not be possible to maintain at Bright Sparks.

CLUBS

Some sports clubs will be returning after half term. PR Sports will be providing a club for each phase and more details will follow in a separate letter.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

PR Sports will be holding their half term Festival of Sports which has been sent via email. You can contact PR Sports on 07788428754

PARENT FORUM

Thank you to the 6 parents who have replied about being a part of the parent forum. If anyone else would like to join, please let the office know by Friday 6th November.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Each Friday, we will send out a weekly bulletin to remind you of what is coming up in the next fortnight at school so you can keep on top of anything you may need.

NEW INTAKE

We are currently creating a virtual video tour of the school in preparation for any children and their families who are considering St Mary's as their school for September 2021. This will be available to watch on our website from mid November. If you know any parents who are considering our school, please let them know.

PARENTS MEETING

You should have received a letter regarding the parent/teacher meetings during the week beginning 9th November. These can be booked via the parents evening app. All of these meetings will be online via google meet. This may need setting up prior to your meeting but can be on a phone, laptop or ipad. Unfortunately if you miss your appointment, there will not be another opportunity for you to talk to the class teacher. The days and times the teachers are available are below:-

Days/ Times	Monday 9 th November	Tuesday 10 th November	Wednesday 11 th November	Friday 13 th November
9:30am – 4:00pm	Acceptance Justice Trust	Friendship	Forgiveness Hope Wisdom Respect	Peace Perseverance Kindness Honesty
4:00pm – 6:00pm		All Classes		

Once you have booked a slot we will give you details for google meet.

POETRY COMPETITION

I would like to thank all the children who entered the writing competition last half term. There were so many brilliant entries to choose from that it took us a little while to make our final decision but we are pleased to announce that all the winners have now been chosen. This means that the exciting stage of creating our school book of creative writing can begin! We are hoping to have it ready for publication next half term so keep a lookout for it and the announcement of the winners. Thank you again to everyone who entered.

MATHS AWARDS

As in previous years, we will be doing termly maths challenges. These will be based around the key instant recall facts that the children need to know at each year group. There will be 3 different levels of challenge to achieve through the year and as in previous years the children will have a similar test to practise ensuring that they have an idea what to expect. There will be a baseline test this term and then the Bronze challenges will take place before Christmas.

ACTIVE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Thank you to all the children (and parents) that participated in our bike/cycle to school week. Below are the results of how each class did.

The winning class is highlighted and they will receive an extra playtime as their reward. Thank you to all the parents who supported the children with their bikes/scooters or parking further away from school and walking in. All the children who did this will be rewarded.

CLASS	% ON A SCOOTER/CYCLE/WALKING	INCREASE FROM NORMAL
Friendship	55%	2%
Peace	54%	Stayed the same
Kindness	62%	16%
Forgiveness	50%	30%
Acceptance	53%	5%
Perseverance	42%	Stayed the same
Trust	63%	6%
Honesty	61%	2%
Respect	71%	14%
Hope	64%	Decrease usually 71%
Justice	67%	7%
Wisdom	47%	10%

CURRICULUM ROUND UP

EYFS

This half term the children have been settling into school and making new friends. They have been learning about learning the routines and are becoming more confident in exploring the learning environment. For our 'All About Me' topic, the children have enjoyed talking about themselves, their families and the things they like. They have worked really hard to recognise new letter sounds and have had lots of fun sorting different objects in Maths. We are really looking forward to next half term.

YEAR 1 AND 2

We started the term securing our place value knowledge in Maths. This involved representing numbers in different ways, counting forwards and backwards to 100 and comparing and ordering numbers. We have now moved on to applying this knowledge to addition facts, including number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and finding efficient strategies to solving addition problems.

We have been looking at key figures in medicine in literacy. We have looked at Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale and the amazing key workers that have supported people through the current pandemic. The children have independently written a character description and a fact file.

In History this term, we have been learning about the lives of people in the Victorian era. We compared what life was like in relation to houses, roads, schools and recreational activities. We then focused on the life of a significant individual, Florence Nightingale. We have explored a range of sources to gather information about her life, from her childhood, training to being a nurse in the Crimean War.

In Art this term, we have learnt to draw portraits of Florence Nightingale. We thought carefully about the size and position of features, then used different medium to add details and colour to our portraits.

In Music this term we have been focusing on rhythm. We have been finding and showing the rhythm in a range of music. We have been learning about hip hop and rap.

We have been beginning to learn about our Health and Well being in PSHE this term. We have been learning about the different ways we can help to keep ourselves healthy.

We have been looking at Islam and starting to understand the God that is important to Muslims- Allah. The children also explored his many names and why he was important. The children compared this to the things that were important to them.

In Science this term, we have focused on the unit Animals, including humans. We started off by identifying and naming the basic parts of the human body, including bones and organs. We then thought about our 5 senses and explored different objects using these. We then discussed the basic needs for survival for humans and animals – air, water and food. We thought about how to stay healthy by looking at a healthy diet and the importance of hygiene.

YEAR 3 AND 4

In year 3 /4 we have settled into the new norm exceptionally well and enjoying our learning.

Maths

We have been looking at place value making sure that we know what each digit is worth in a 3 and 4 digit number. We are enjoying our 'Flash Back 4' questions which challenge the children to remind them of previous work. This helps the children to remind themselves about ALL aspects of maths.

English

'The Stone Age Boy'. Hopefully the children may have shared some of their excitement about the book we have been focussing upon. We have written our own versions of the story trying to include fronted adverbials, exciting adjectives and past tense. We are currently using all the information we have learnt in History to write a non-chronological report about the Stone Age.

Science

We are able to name the bones of our skeleton and their function. We have made our own moveable arms using card and elastic bands to demonstrate the muscles. We enjoyed trying to match the skeleton picture to the correct animal. It was tricky!

History

We are able to discuss the timeline of the Stone Age and the different periods – Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. We have found Skara Brae and Stonehenge fascinating. We have all experienced a vertical tour of Stonehenge.

DT

We have researched various shelters and found out about Stone Age shelters and how they evolved over time. We are designing our own and looking forward to making them soon.

RE

We have been learning about different journeys of life in the Christian, Hindu and Jewish religions. We have compared and contrasted the different celebrations and written our own booklet on a journey of life.

YEAR 5 AND 6

Year five have had a great return to school, after the holidays. We started by writing a fictional story in English based around our termly topic of the Vikings which we linked to 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and have spent lots of time reminding the children about place value and the mechanics of addition and subtraction. In RE, we are learning about Muslims, and more specifically what it means for a Muslim to believe in God. We have been learning about evolution and inheritance in Science, and have studied Charles Darwin and his theory. We have learnt lots about the Vikings but still have lots of questions – one being why does everyone expect Vikings have horns on their helmets when they didn't!

UPCOMING DATES

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

During 1/2 term, we would like to invite children and parents to take part in our 1st ever pumpkin carving competition. There will be three categories; EYFS and KS1, KS2 and grown ups with no limit to the number of entries per household. Cost is £1 per pumpkin entered.

Entry fees need to be placed in a sealed envelope with the names and categories written on the front and handed to class teachers by Friday 6th November 2020.

Photographs of your carved creations can be uploaded to this event and must include the name and category to match the information written on the envelope.

The link to the PTFA facebook page is [St Mary's PTFA Burton Latimer](#)

CHILDREN IN NEED

Children in Need will be taking place on Friday 13th November. Children are welcome to come in multi clothes, Pudsey clothes or spots for a donation to Children In Need. The children will then learn more about Children In Need at school during the day. Any monetary donations will be given to Children in Need.

PANTOMIME

Although our regular pantomime has cancelled their booking, we have been fortunate enough to book an online performance of "The Selfish Giant". We are also hoping to have a virtual visit from the Giant and hiself.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Jumper Day will still be held this year on Friday 11th December children are invited to come into school wearing a Christmas jumper/ top with their usual school uniform underneath. All donations will go to Save The Children.

We will also have our Christmas lunch on the 11th December—this will be a picnic style festive treat and more details will follow after half term.

COVID RULES

A reminder, If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive then ONLY the person who has been in contact needs to self isolate.

If anyone in your household shows any symptoms of Covid e.g. a new or persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell then the whole household must self isolate until a negative test result has been received.

For more information please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (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)

Our first half term is nearly over and it has been really great to see all the children accessing the curriculum so positively. Well done everyone!

Staff will be reviewing Individual Support Plans over the next few weeks, and creating new plans for interventions that will be put in place until February 2021. The new ISPs will look a little different from our existing ones, but your child's class teacher will be able to explain these to you. We will still be using the One Page Profiles that the children like to choose themselves.

In 2021, I will be setting up some video meetings to show how we do some of our interventions in school. I plan to show some maths, reading, writing and spelling work, but please let me know if there are other areas that you would like support with, so that you can help your child further – what would really help to make a difference? I look forward to hearing from you. I will post the dates for these soon.

Website links: Did you find any of these helpful? Have you found any others?

Please let me know, so I can continue to share support to you. I have previously recommended the Carol Vorderman maths link, which was free during lockdown. Unfortunately, it is chargeable now, but they are still offering 21 days free and have a link to a free times tables checker. Why not have a look for 1 few weeks, over half term? <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

Lots of children find reading so hard: sometimes this is because of having Dyslexia traits. There is a course to help understand these needs that all parents can access at the following website, for free. Click on the 'Just Teach Me' pack and instructions are there.

https://www.nessy.com/uk/dyslexia-awareness/?utm_source=Just+Teach+Me++Dyslexia+Awareness+Resources+Pack+2020&utm_campaign=9c26199884-AUTOMATION_1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0bbdedb8ed-9c26199884-11742064

I really would love to hear from you about how these resources have helped.

The **Keys to Happier Living** are continuing with many of our children, but these ideas are relevant for us all and are particularly useful now! 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. Keep spreading happiness! 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.....

 A Acceptance	<p>No-one's perfect. But so often we compare our insides to other people's outsides.</p> <p>Learning to accept ourselves, warts and all, and being kinder to ourselves when things go wrong, increases our enjoyment of life, our resilience and our well-being.</p> <p>It also helps us accept others as they are!</p>	<p>Acceptance:</p> <p>Be comfortable with who you are.</p> <p>Notice things that you can do well.</p>
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Together, we can make a difference!
Mel Barron
Inclusion and Pastoral Leader