



*Dream, believe, achieve*

## Fortnightly Newsletter

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### Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of our exciting 2020! We look forward to updating you on our exciting news in the coming year.

### Collective Worship

We have launched our new value this term which is perseverance. Perseverance is doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. We have encouraged the children to set themselves a goal that they can strive to achieve, whether it be an academic or personal goal. We look forwards to hearing how they get on.

### Curriculum round up

#### EYFS

Our theme this half term is 'Dinosaurs'. We have already had lots of fun finding out different dinosaur facts, using the junk modelling to make our own dinosaurs and moving and dancing like a dinosaur. We understand that dinosaurs lived many years ago and are now extinct. To deepen our understanding of what dinosaurs ate, the size of dinosaurs and how they lived, we are going to look at pictures of dinosaur bones and fossils. At the end of this half term we will be learning about space. We will have visitors from the space centre to help us explore this exciting theme.

#### YEAR 1/2

In Literacy we have been learning about our new text 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket. We thought about different fears we might have and learnt about how we could overcome them. We learnt about how the dark helped Laszlo overcome his fears in the story. We will soon write our own version of the story.

In maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have been making equal groups using lots of different concrete resources. Can you find something in your house to make equal groups of 2?

In History, we have been learning about explorers over time. We found out about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong and why they were famous.

In science, we have been learning about animals including humans. We thought about all of the different animals they know and what categories they fit into (mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles).

In RE, we have been learning about the Creation story. Why not learn the song we learnt in our RE lesson to remember what God created on each day? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV9ZP8ZTPnM>

#### YEAR 3

Year three have had a great return to school, after the holidays. We have started our writing unit based around the book 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket and have continued our maths work on multiplication and division, where the children really wowed us with the amount that they remembered from before Christmas, applying it to new challenges. In RE, we are learning about Hinduism, and more specifically what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. Hopefully we will be having a visitor in to school soon to share their experiences with us. We have been learning about solids, liquids and gasses in our 'changes of state' unit in Science, and have even done an experiment to make it 'rain' in the classroom. In Geography, we have also started to learn more about Europe, including comparing Burton Latimer to Rome!

#### YEAR 4

We've been discovering Europe! We're learning to name many of the 44 countries as well as the key mountains and rivers. We are also learning about key places in some of the countries - our teachers are learning these as well! Multiplication is our maths focus and Times Table Rock Stars is helping us all! Our Literacy is story writing and we are focussing developing our sentence struct

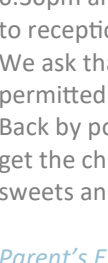
Even though Christmas is a while ago, we've loved watching Excitable Edgar in our VIPERS sessions!

#### YEAR 5/6

Year 5 and 6 have had a busy start to the year. In Maths we have been focusing on adding and subtracting improper fractions and mixed numbers. In English we have been writing our own suspense story with a focus on developing the skills to use dialogue for effect. Our Geography topic Raging Rivers has got off to a practical start with us creating our own working models of the water cycle; please feel free to pop in and see how they are getting on! This topic will involve us learning to identify nationwide rivers before focusing more closely on rivers local to us here in Burton Latimer and the impact of localised flooding.

The children were very lucky to have a visit from Hugh and Rebecca who are part of the National Society for the Blind. They came in to educate the children on how partially sighted or blind people function in everyday life. The children got to try out different glasses which gave them the feeling they were partially sighted and showed them the many different types of sight – the children learnt about muscular degeneration, cataracts, blind in one eye, totally blind, black blind and tunnel vision. They also learnt about the different sticks that blind people may use and their purpose. Mrs. Reynolds then had to make a cup of tea blindfolded and the children found out about different technologies that helped people who were blind in their homes. They were particularly impressed with the talking microwaves and telephones. Hugh then answered any questions the children had about vision and blindness.

### Thank you



A big thank you must go to Sainsbury's who have donated crackers for the children's Christmas lunch 2020! We are very grateful and feel extremely prepared!

### Upcoming events

Attached to this newsletter are all the dates for the spring term but we thought we'd draw attention to some of them for you.

#### Homework

Homework was sent out on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January (please see your child's class teacher if you haven't received this – EYFS don't have any yet). This is due in on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

From parent feedback, we hope you found that the letter explained the task more clearly and the examples of how to do the task were more helpful. If you have any questions or need any support, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Laughton or Mrs. Reynolds.

#### Walk in Wednesday

Thank you to those parents who came to the last session. This was an open session for you to come and talk to the teachers about anything you needed to and a chance to look at any of your children's books. Our next session will be on 5<sup>th</sup> February and the focus will be science. It will start with a presentation in the hall from Miss Price and then back to the children's classrooms to look at their science books.

#### Disco

Our next disco will be on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. EYFS and Key Stage One will be 5:30-6:30pm and Key Stage Two will be 6:45-8pm. Entrance will be via the blue door next to reception and the entrance fee will be taken on the night.

We ask that you take children's coats home and no mobile phones will be permitted. No child will be allowed to walk home alone.

Back by popular demand is DJ Laughton who will once again select songs that will get the children dancing. The cost will be £3.50 per child which will include a drink, sweets and crisps for your child.

#### Parent's Evening

This will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. A letter will come home at the beginning of February with more details. Last time we had 96% of parent's book a session but only 81% attended. We would love to see this increase this year. If you are unable to attend on either of these nights, please talk to your child's class teacher who will endeavour to find a mutually convenient time.

#### World Book Day

The 5<sup>th</sup> March will be our annual World Book Day where we all dress up as a character from a book – we know it's a long way away but it's always good to be prepared, especially when a costume is needed!

The day will start with our annual Big Book Breakfast where all parents and children are invited to join us in the hall from 8am. There will be a continental style breakfast and activities for you to do with your children as well as some great books to read.

#### Mufti day and chocolate bingo

The mufti day will be on 13<sup>th</sup> March where children can come to school dressed in their normal clothes for a donation towards our chocolate bingo.

The chocolate bingo will be at school on 27<sup>th</sup> March. This is a fun night where the winner of a line, 2 lines or a house gets a chocolate surprise. This has proved very popular over the years and is a great night out for all the family.

#### Mother's Day Tea Party

Again, the date is quite far away, but we thought it would be good to know, in case you need to book time off work. Throughout the day on 20<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a tea party for the main female role models in the children's lives. The timings of this are below:

EYFS – 9am

Year 1 and 2 – 10:15am

Year 3 and 4 – 1:30pm

Year 5 and 6 – 2:30pm

We would like any male role models to come and help serve tea to the ladies - If you are able to help, please let Mrs. Reynolds know.

#### Easter Service

This will be held at St Mary's church on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

Key Stage 1 will be at 9:30am

Key Stage 2 will be at 10:30am.

#### Easter School

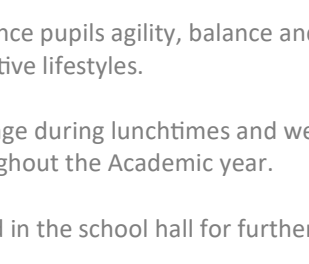
Following the success of last year, we will be holding Easter School from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April for Year 6 pupils, (9am -12pm). We will send out more details nearer the time but would love to see as many year 6 pupils as possible.

### Working parents

We are aware we have many working parents who can't always make it to events such as Walk in Wednesday. If you are one of these parents, we will always do our best to accommodate you at an alternative time or send you information from these events. Please contact Mrs. Reynolds for more information.

### PTFA—Our plans

Our main target for this year is to complete the playground improvements. We are raising funds to extend the activity trail at the bottom of the field and add even more exciting things for the children to use. £1000 has been donated to purchase new lunchtime equipment to ensure that children can be active during their breaktimes. We will let you know what we buy.



### Fundraising so far

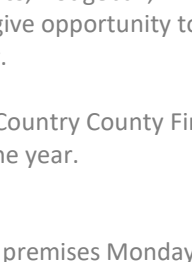
Our Christmas fair raised a whopping £1500! Our disco profit was £350 and the Christmas cards raised £265. Thank you to everyone who supported us with one of these events. This money will go to our playground fund.

### Smarties Challenge

Children will be given a tube of smarties next week, which they will need to empty (you can decide how), then fill with as many 20p's as you can. There is a class prize for the most money raised and most tubes returned. All Tubes are to be returned to the office by 24th February. Thank you to Bookers for donating the Smarties for us.

### New to St Mary's

Our aim is to 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.

All uniform items will be gratefully received.

### Order

**In order to access the 'FREE' school uniform, please complete a request form, available from Mrs Jackson.**

**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. If you have an urgent request, please let Mrs Jackson know, or indicate this clearly on the form.**

Please note:

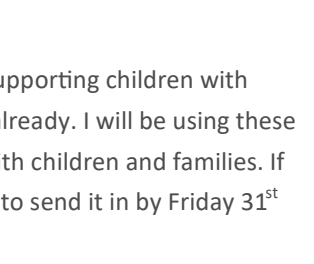
- We may not always have everything you request.
- You can use this service as many times as you require.
- The request forms will be returned with the uniform.
- All requests will be handled confidentially.

### Family Support Worker - Drop ins

On Friday mornings, Drop in sessions are available from 9.00am until 10.30am. Everyone is welcome.

### 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 Mary's 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.



**Personal Best Challenges-** This week we will be launching Personal Best challenges

These are 6 sports challenges, each designed to enhance pupils agility, balance and co-ordination skills as well as promote healthy and active lifestyles.

Pupils will have opportunities to practice each challenge during lunchtimes and we are eager to see all pupils improve their scored throughout the Academic year.

Challenge cards can be viewed on the playground and in the school hall for further information.

**Clubs-** Clubs have changed this term to provide a broad range of sports offered throughout the year, as well as accommodate for the limited daylight hours and wet field.

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

We have had a fantastic response so far, however there are a few places available. To book please log onto Parent Pay and complete and return the written consent form to the school office.

**Competitions-** We have been working hard to prepare for the following competitions this term: Year 3/4 Gymnastics, Year 5/6 Gymnastics, Dodgeball, Boccia and Year 1/2 New Age Kurling County Finals. We aim to give opportunity to as many pupils as possible in competitions, throughout the year.

A special mention to Josh who represented St Marys in a Cross Country County Final last weekend, having qualified in two previous races earlier in the year.

Well done Josh we are very proud of you.

**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.

### Smash Table Tennis Club

Table Tennis opportunities starting in February at the William Knibb Centre.

The sessions are 'TTKidz Sessions'; details and further information can be found on the attached link: <https://www.ttkidz.co.uk/>

If you have any questions about the sessions please contact;

Henry Arthur (Corby Smash) [henry.arthur@corbysmashttc.co.uk](mailto:henry.arthur@corbysmashttc.co.uk) Mobile: 07929 347586.

### 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)

Welcome back to everyone! Interventions running for all pupils with additional needs and these will be reviewed again in our next round of meetings, which start on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February and ends on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. You will receive a letter with an invitation to the meeting, which will also involve some of our older pupils. Following this review, a new Individual Support Plan will be written for your child and this will be shared with you by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

I recently sent out a questionnaire about how we are supporting children with SEND. Thank you to all those that have been returned already. I will be using these to look at how we can continue to improve our work with children and families. If you still have yours to complete, please could I ask you to send it in by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Thank you.

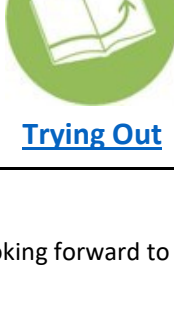
Our next **Coffee morning 'drop in'** is on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 8.45 – 9.30** in the **Music Room**.

### Everyone is welcome

to come to these. Please come along with ideas about how we can support you and your children more effectively. We have shared some great ideas about dealing with our children when they are worried or anxious and we will be discussing how we can help our children to learn spellings. Why not come along and get some practical 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](http://www.actionforhappiness.org) Research shows that there are particular actions that have a significant impact on our sense of happiness and wellbeing. I have key fobs ready to be given out, to make a set of tips - Just remind your child to come and collect one from my classroom after each newsletter is published. This is the next one.....

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trying Out</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>'You can't teach an old dog new tricks!'</b></u> <b>YES YOU CAN!</b> <u><b>Give it a go – try some-thing new! I'd love to hear about what you have challenged yourself to do.....</b></u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trying Out:</b> <b>Keep learning new things.</b> <b>Do something for the first time to-day.</b></p>
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Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Together, we can make a difference!**