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October newsletter

Curriculum overview

Please see the attached document(s) that tell you all about what the children have been learning about this term.

Collective Worship

Our theme this term has been friendship. The children have been looking at what makes a good friend and how we can be a friend to others. We looked at various bible stories that told us about Jesus' friends and how they helped each other.

We ended this value with our Values Crew writing and leading their own worship. They concentrated on the story of The Good Samaritan. We are very proud of them and they did an amazing job at leading the worship by themselves.

Walk in Wednesday

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our recent Walk in Wednesday, which had a reading focus. If you were unable to attend and want to find out more about reading in school, please contact the school office.

The next one will be on **Wednesday 2nd November, 3:15pm, in the classrooms**. This will be a chance to look at the children's books and talk to the class teachers. If you have multiple children, please start with the eldest child.

Parent's Evening

Parent's evenings will be held on Tuesday 8th November and Thursday 10th November. These are now bookable via the ParentMail app. We apologise for the technical issues encountered when these first went live. This problem has now been sorted. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Parent Forum

The next meeting of the parent forum is on Friday 18th November at 9am. We would love to have more parents come and join us to discuss how to make the school even better.

Homework

Well done to all the children from years 1-6 who completed their homework projects. We have been delighted by the variety of ways that people have completed this. Some of the most impressive are pictured below. The children have had the chance to share their homework with their friends and will receive a certificate for their homework. There were also lunchtime sessions for children to get help in completing their homework, which the children found very supportive. These will continue next time.

We are also proud to announce that a selection of our homework will be displayed in the library after half term. Here is the class breakdown below. Well done to Hope and Perseverance as every single member completed their homework.

CLASS	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED THEIR HOMEWORK
Acceptance	50%
Forgiveness	67%
Kindness	89%
Hope	100%

Perseverance	100%
Trust	71%
Justice	52%
Wisdom	59%
Respect	60%



Harvest Festival

Thank you for the very generous donations for our local foodbank, the generosity of our families was astounding. Thank you also to those who were able to join us in school for our Harvest Festivals. It was lovely to share these services with you all. Thank you to the staff and children who taught us about the harvest in very creative ways. We are, as always, very proud of you.

PE

PE Kit

As the weather turns colder, please ensure your child is suitably prepared for both indoor and outdoor PE lessons. This includes plimsolls/trainers, blue shorts, joggers/leggings, white t-shirt and a sky-blue PE jumper. We also advise pupils to have gloves and a coat as lessons may still be outside even in light rain. Please ensure their PE kit remains in school throughout the week.

For safety reasons pupils will need to be able to remove their earrings and tie long hair back independently. PE is a valued part of our Pupil's education, we thank you for your support in ensuring they are suitably prepared for their physical education.

Healthy School Ethos

FREE Swimming this half term:

All children can access free swimming sessions this half term.

Available to book at Corby International pool, Splash Rushden, Kettering Swimming Pool, Waendel Leisure Centre Wellingborough, and The Nene Centre Thrapston.

Lunchtimes

Year 6 children have applied to be sports leaders and will access leadership training at the start of next term. They will then be given the opportunity to lead active lunchtime activities to their younger peers, something they are eager to start.

Move it Mile

All classes have continued to take part in the daily mile initiative each week. This initiative encourages pupils to be active for 15 minutes to contribute to the daily recommendation of 60 active minutes per day.

We will also be launching skip to fit in the next few weeks.

School Sports Competitions

Cross Country Competition

This term we competed in our first inter school sports competition of the new academic year.

We took 47 pupils in years 3-6 to Desborough to compete in a cross-country competition.

The conditions were not pleasant as the rain fell all afternoon, but this didn't stop us.

All the children did a fantastic job and showed great athleticism and determination.

We had 6 top 20 finishes overall, of which 3 children have qualified for the country finals later in the year.

We are awaiting confirmation from our schools' games manager as to what position our school came in overall.

Tag Rugby Competition

Unfortunately, year 3/4 and 5/6 Tag Rugby competitions were cancelled at short notice.

We share parents and pupil's disappointment and hope these events will be rearranged for later in the year.

Forthcoming competitions

We now turn our attentions to the following competitions scheduled to take place next term:

- Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics
- Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics
- Year 3/4 Development Gymnastics
- Year 5/6 Development Gymnastics
- KS2 Boccia

Sports Clubs

Extra-Curricular sports clubs are great to allow children to be active, socialise and advance their PE education by inputting their skills into sport specific scenarios.

Clubs are priced £3 per session and are now available to book in advance via Parent Mail.

Mondays 8.00-8.45 - Archery- Yrs. R-6

Mondays 3.15-4.15 - Mini Sports- Yrs. R-2

Tuesdays 8.00-8.45- Gymnastics- Yrs. R-2

Tuesdays 3.15-4.15- Dodgeball- Yrs. 3-6

Wednesdays 8.00-8.45 Kick Boxing- Yrs. R-6

Thursday 8.00-8.45- Gymnastics - Yrs. 3-6

Thursdays 3.15-4.15- Tag Rugby- Yrs. 3-6

Fridays 8.00-8.45- Dance- Yrs. R-6

Fridays 3.15-4.15- Football- Yrs. R-6

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.

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new academic year. It is hard to believe that the first term is over already!

This term, we have been holding review meetings for your children who have Individual Support Plans (ISPs). These meetings focus on what is going well and any further support we feel needs to be put in place. They also give you an opportunity to discuss with myself and your child's class teacher, the progress that your child is making towards their targets. We have continued to have excellent engagement with these meetings and we hope you find them as useful as we do!



DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

These reviews will then inform your child's next ISP which will be sent home on **Monday 21st November 2022**.

Thank you to those parents who have replied to our parent questionnaire. We really value your responses and will be using these to inform and shape our approach to SEND. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire, please access it through the link emailed to you. If you are having difficulty accessing this, please contact the school office.

SEND Parents' Evening

This year, you will have the opportunity to book in for a 10-minute session with Miss Price on either Tuesday 8th November or Thursday 10th November. This will be **in addition** to your meeting with your child's class teacher. These sessions are optional; however, you may wish to use these to discuss any concerns you have, have any aspects of the ISPs explained to you or just catch up about your child's needs. You will find the booking information in the letter sent out to you this week. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

SEND in the Community

As well as providing support for our children at St. Mary's with SEND, there are also services available to support the parents, carers and families around those children with SEND.

Free Rangers SEN Club

The Greenpatch, Valley Walk, Kettering NN16 0LU
Spaces Available Autumn/Winter 2022!
For children aged 7 – 18 with mild to moderate needs cost is £4 – 15 per session. Activities include cooking, arts and crafts, outdoor play, animal handling and feeding.
After-School Club Wednesdays 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Saturday Sessions 9.30am – 12.30pm, 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Holiday Clubs 10am – 3pm in Half Term
Contact Vicky for more information and to book a place at the sessions please email vicky.bowden@groundwork.org.uk

IASS Northants

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and or/disabilities (SEND)? Come along to one of our friendly local events and meet the SEND team.

Corby: Enterprise Centre: Wednesday 9 November 2022 (10am-12 noon)
Rushden Hall: Thursday 10 November 2022 (10am-12 noon)
Kettering Cornmarket: Wednesday 16th November 2022 (10am-12noon)
The Castle Theatre, Wellingborough: Thursday 17 November 2022 (10am-12noon)
For more information and to book tickets please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/iass-northants-npfg-local-offer-51546284783>

Together, we can make a difference!
Abbie Price - School Inclusion Leader



PTFA News

Please like, share and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)
Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk



❖ Christmas Cards

Thank you for all of the orders placed, and for helping us to maximise profit by doing this early!

❖ Christmas Light Switch on

Due to the council hiring their own Santa's grotto this year, we are currently making plans for a new and different Santa experience and Christmas Fair. If you are able to help with organising, or volunteer on the day, please drop us a message as all help will make for a bigger and better event for everyone!

❖ **AGM & Next Meeting**
Tuesday 8th November 7pm

If you can help in any way with the PTFA, please do come! If you would like to be involved but can't make the meeting, drop us a message so we can include you in our plans.

The PTFA can only hold fairs, discos, and buy Christmas gifts with enough volunteers, so please do come and help!

❖ **NEW TRIM TRAIL!**

It is with great pleasure that the PTFA present a wonderful new outdoor, timber, trim trail for the children to use.

Unfortunately, due to the uneven ground where the equipment has been installed, the trail will not be in use until it is levelled and grass grows, but this will be organised by PTFA ready for use in the spring.

This has taken years to raise enough funds to be able to purchase, and we are grateful to parents, staff, and children for fundraising, giving up lots of time, and all for many years of fun to come!

❖ **Uniform Sales**

Please continue to donate good quality school uniform, please do not donate dirty or bad condition clothing, or shoes!

We are particularly in need of PE jumpers, t-shirts and other logo items.

Email stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk or pop in to reception and fill in an order form and we will be in touch with what we have available.

❖ **Discos**

Cancelled – until further notice – we need more volunteers to run these events. Please come to a meeting if you can help with the school discos