

ST MARY'S CE(C) FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY



Newsletter Number: 3

30th September 2016

Dear Parents & Carers

Our Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church takes place next week on Friday 7th October. The service starts at 9.15am. Please do come along and join us.

This service is an opportunity for our community to come together and give thanks to our farmers who work so hard throughout the year to provide us with the food that we enjoy. It also gives us the opportunity to think about people in other parts of the world where war and famine are widespread and who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Furthermore, parents and carers are invited to join us in school for our special Harvest Festival Lunch on Thursday 6th October. Our chef, Miss Mills, has planned a special seasonal menu which we're sure you will enjoy.

We watched in excitement this week as the school took delivery of several large logs in preparation for the start of Bushcraft Club on Monday. These logs will form a circle for seating around the campfire. As an intrepid explorer myself, I am looking forward to joining the children on their first session.

Finally, it has been wonderful to see lots of parents this week. We value your feedback and suggestions.

Kind regards
Mr J Thorne

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|------------|---|
| Mon 3 Oct | Bushcraft Club starts for Years 3 and 4, 3.15pm to 4.45pm |
| Tue 4 Oct | PACT Workshop (phonics & reading) for KS1 (Year 1/2), 9am to 9.30am |
| Thur 6 Oct | Harvest Festival Lunch, 12pm |
| Fri 7 Oct | Harvest Festival Service, St Mary's Church, 9.15am. All welcome. |
| Tue 11 Oct | PACT Workshop (phonics & reading) for KS2 (Year 3/4), 9am to 9.30am |
| Wed 19 Oct | Stone Age Experience Trip Years 3/4 |
| Fri 21 Oct | Break Up for Half Term |
| Mon 31 Oct | Return to School |
| Wed 7 Dec | Whole School Pantomime Trip |
| Fri 16 Dec | Break Up for Christmas |

ST MARY'S SUPERSTARS!!!

Congratulations to this week's Superstars. We are very proud of you. Keep up the hard work!

Star Writers:

Bobby Ray (R)
Ava Holt (Y1)
April Harvey (Y2)
Hayden Jones (Y4)

Star Mathematicians:

Samuel Shield (R)
Tiffany Rogers (Y1)
Tinkerbelle Lewis (Y1)
River Wild (Y4)



Thank you to everyone who supported our Non-School Uniform Day today. We have raised a fantastic total of £70.00. We will be making a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.

PACT (Parents and Children Together)

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to join us at the first of this term's PACT phonics and reading workshops. We do hope that you found the session useful, informative and fun.

Our KS1 (Years 1 and 2) PACT phonics and reading workshop is taking place on Tuesday 4th October at 9.00am.

It is hoped that each child will be supported by a parent, carer, relative or other adult during the workshop. It is a great opportunity for you to pick up lots of ideas to support your child's learning at home. If you or another nominated person can attend, please put your/their name down on your child's class list held at reception. The sessions will last approximately 20 minutes.

Please enter school via the main entrance after dropping off your children.

BUSHCRAFT CLUB FOR YEARS 3 & 4

There has been a great response for Bushcraft Club, which starts on Monday 3rd October for Year 3 and 4 children, 3.15pm to 4.45pm.

EKO (Educating Kids Outdoors) will be contacting by email the parents of all those children who have registered to join, providing more detailed information about the activities on offer, clothing requirements and other arrangements.

At the end of the session, the children will be dismissed from the main entrance to school.

If your child is interested in joining, please ask at the school office for information. There are still spaces available.

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH

Our Harvest Festival Lunch is scheduled for Thursday 6 October. All parents and carers are invited to join us for this special celebration meal. The cost is £2.58 per person and places can be booked at the school office (no later than Monday 3rd October).

HARVEST FESTIVAL CHURCH SERVICE

Please join us at St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival Service on Friday 7 October. The service starts at 9.15am.

If there are any parents or carers who are available and willing to help us escort the children safely to and from church, please could you inform the school office?

HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS

This year the school will be supporting The Well, a Christian project, based in Wolverhampton. The Well provides food and other essentials to local people in crisis. From Monday 3rd October, the children can

bring in to school donations of in-date, non-perishable food items - such as tea, coffee, sugar, tins (soup, meat, veg, fruit), packets (rice, pasta, biscuits), jars (cooking sauces, jam, marmalade) and cereals. Thank you for supporting this worthy, local cause.

YEAR 4 RECORDER GROUP

This week has seen the start of Ms William's Year 4 Recorder Group, which meets on Tuesday lunchtimes. The children have each been given an instrument on which to practise and, as well as being taught how to play the recorder, they will also be taught how to read music.

We hope that they have all been practising hard at home and we look forward to watching and listening to their debut performance later this term!

SCHOOL MEALS

Please see this month's Newsletter from our Catering Team (attached) announcing the new menu, theme days and other information about school meals. All of our meals are freshly prepared and cooked in school each day.

Remember that school meals are free for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. As well as hot, delicious options, picnic boxes are also available until the end of Autumn half term. Picnic boxes contain a sandwich, crunchy salad pot and either a piece of fruit or pudding. Children just need to tell their class teacher whether they would like a hot dinner or picnic box during the morning dinner register.

SCHOOL TEXT SERVICE

We are very sorry but our school text to parents service is unavailable at present. We are in the process of sourcing a new provider. More news to follow. Thank you for your patience.

OOPS!!!

Unfortunately, two of the inset dates on last week's school term and holiday calendar were incorrect. Please find attached the correct school term and holiday dates for the 2016/17 academic year. Please accept our apologies.

LETTERS HOME THIS WEEK

Years 3 & 4 Stone Age Experience Trip
Reception Photography Consent Letter

Please contact the school office if you are missing any of these letters. We can email them to you if this is more convenient.

BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

If you would like your child to attend breakfast or after-school club, please make sure that you book in advance as places are limited.

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2016 / 2017

Autumn Term 2016:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Staff: | Monday 5 September – Friday 21 October | (35 working days) |
| Pupils: | Tuesday 6 September – Friday 21 October | (34 working days) |
| Holiday: | Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October | 5 days |
| Staff & Pupils: | Monday 31 October – Friday 16 December | (35 working days) |
| Holiday: | Monday 19 December – Monday 2 January | 11 days |

Spring Term 2017:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Staff & Pupils: | Tuesday 3 January – Friday 17 February | (34 working days) |
| Holiday: | Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February | 5 days |
| Staff & Pupils: | Monday 27 February – Friday 7 April | (30 working days) |
| Holiday: | Monday 10 April – Friday 21 April | 10 days |
| <i>Easter Sunday:</i> | <i>Sunday 16 April</i> | |

Summer Term 2017:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Staff & Pupils: | Monday 24 April – Friday 26 May | (24 working days) |
| <i>May Day:</i> | <i>Monday 1 May</i> | |
| Holiday: | Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June | 5 days |
| Staff & Pupils: | Monday 5 June – Tuesday 25 July | (37 working days) |
| Holiday (staff): | Wednesday 26 July – Friday 1 September | 28 days |

INSET DAYS

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday 5 th September 2016 | Tuesday 6 th September 2016 | |
| Friday 17 th February 2017 | Monday 24 th February 2017 | Tuesday 25 th February 2017 |

YEAR 1/2 ARE GETTING "GREENFINGERS"



In our science topic this term, Year 1 and 2 children have enjoyed learning about the fascinating world of seeds, flowers and plants. As part of our activities, we have germinated cress seeds and watched them grow, we have learned how the different parts of a plant contribute to its lifecycle and we have had great fun getting muddy while planting daffodil bulbs in our garden area. We can now truthfully say "watch this space!" Please take a look at our photographs.

Miss Taylor

MS WILLIAMS' RECORDER GROUP

