



St Mary's C of E Primary School & Nursery Newsletter – Issue 12 – 15/2/2022



Please note that should you wish to receive this newsletter in a different format please ask at the school office.

This term's Christian Value is Perseverance:

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

Philippians 4:13

Calendar events:



February

- 14th Book Week
- 16th Bedtime Stories 6pm-7pm
- 16th 6pm-7pm Introduction to our new phonics scheme for parents. Suitable for parents of children in Nursery (there are no bedtime stories for Nursery children – they are too little, but parents welcome), Reception, Year 1, Year 2.
- 18th 3.15 End of Term 3
- 28th Inset day

March

- 1st Start of term 4
- 3rd World Book Day
- 16th Class 1 trip to Radstock Museum
- 16th Parents evening
- 17th Parents evening
- 24th Class 5 visit to Shepton Mallet Prison
- 28th Dance Umbrella at Bath Forum
- 29th Class 3 visit to The Roman Baths

St Mary's Stars

Little Acorns: Dougie and Theo for excellent listening.

Little Oaks: Bailey for persevering with his handwriting.

Olivia for using her voice very clearly in phonics.

Theo for great work in maths and finding ways to make 5.

Jessica for improved handwriting and reading.

Class 1: Oliver for always trying so hard, especially in phonics.

Flynn for great improvement in his handwriting.

Class 2: Jack for improving his listening skills.

Felicity for showing a positive attitude coming into school

Class 3: Efa for her growing confidence in reading out loud.

Rowan for trying hard in maths with money.

Class 4: Oscar for demonstrating rhythm and skills during dance with Libby.

Niamh for being kind and compassionate to her peers.

Class 5: Alfie G for always trying so hard especially in fractions.

Elsa for persevering in swimming and moving up a group.

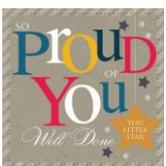
Class 6: Alex for taking advantage of the learning opportunities offered to him – we can see the progress already!

Sonny for his commitment towards challenging himself whilst learning percentages in maths.

Other amazing achievers: Layla, Betsy, and Lola for achieving their pen license.

Isaac and Charlie for great football skills

Erin and Efa for terrific trampolining.





We are very sad to say goodbye to Val Gulliford who is retiring at the end of this term.

Mrs Gulliford has taught children in the Writhlington community for over 30 years. She started running a playscheme in the village hall before the nursery provision became part of the school over 10 years ago.

I know parents and children will want to join with staff at St Mary's to wish her all the best for her retirement. She is looking forward to 'doing what she wants, when she wants'.

Book Fayre



Exciting news. The Scholastic Book Fayre will return on 15th – 18th February.

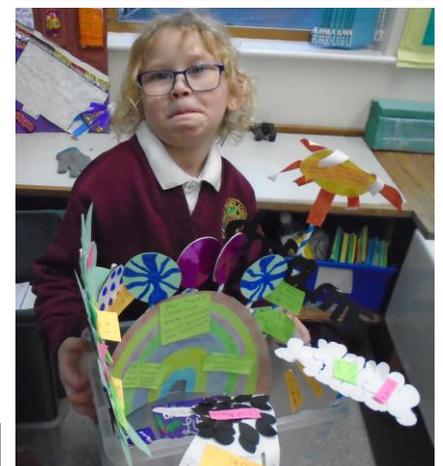
We have not been able to hold a book fayre for a number of years and are pleased to be able to welcome Scholastic back into school. For those who have not been to the book fayre there are a range of books available for children and parents to purchase and for every book sold the school benefits from being able to choose books. We will use these to add to our new school library.

World Book Day

In 2022, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day – with the message for all children 'you are a reader' Children are invited to join in the celebrations by dressing up as their favorite book character on THURSDAY 3rd MARCH.

Pupils have already been given tokens which enable them to claim a free book from participating booksellers.

This is always an enjoyable day highlighting the importance of reading and we can't wait to see your marvelous costume creations.



Class 2 have been finding golden tickets in chocolate bars that were delivered by Willy Wonka, along with some lovely holiday homework.



Dogs on the school grounds

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team have recently considered the issue of allowing dogs on site.

Dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment or when un-attended.

Consequently, dogs are not permitted onto the school site or grounds. Furthermore, dogs are not to be left tied up unattended to the fence adjoining the school entrance. The school's priority is the safeguarding of its children and staff.

From time to time a dog might come into school as part of an educational activity. This could be linked to a curriculum topic on animals or pets, fund raising for Guide Dogs, workshops by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and/or Dog's Trust. In these cases, a Risk Assessment is adhered to.

We recognise that disabled people including guide dog owners and other blind or partially sighted people have important rights under the Equality Act 2010. In accordance with the school's accessibility plan, the school will make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the relevant individual's need which can include the use of a guide/service dog whilst on school grounds.

Communication Protocol

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team would like to bring your attention to our new 'communication protocol' which has been added to the parents section of the website. The purpose of the document is to set out expectations for how school and home can successfully communicate, to ensure the best partnership of support for each child's learning.

Bed time Stories

We are excited to remind parents that our popular 'Bedtime Story Evening' will take place this Wednesday, 16th February. Children are invited to return back to school at 6.00pm and stay until 7.00pm, dressed in pyjamas and slippers and armed with their bedtime teddy, cosy blanket (optional) and a mug for bedtime hot chocolate.

The purpose of the event is to reinforce the importance of reading and to share in the fun and enjoyment of reading a good book before bed!

The teachers will be sharing their favourite stories and leading some book related activities.

Should parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 prefer to remain in school during this time, they are invited to stay in the hall where staff will be presenting an introduction to our new phonics scheme.

Please note: **ALL** children must be collected from bedtime stories

Children's mental Health Week

As it's Children's Mental Health Week this week, we would like to raise awareness that St Mary's takes the emotional health and wellbeing of every child seriously and we encourage children to build resilience and help them to be mentally healthy.

If you are worried about your child's mental health then please talk to us about your concerns so we can work together to help your child feel better.

The parents section of our website has been updated with further information how parents and carers can find support for both themselves and their children, along with a link to an upcoming Zoom information evening run by BANES.



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Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Last week the children were reminded about keeping safe online during a whole school assembly and teachers used time in classes to teach reinforce this.

We regularly teach our children about how to live knowledgeably, responsibly and safely in a digital world through our new JIGSAW (PHSE) scheme, which covers the following aspects.

- Self-image and identity
- Online relationships
- Online reputation
- Online bullying
- Managing online information
- Health, well-being and lifestyle
- Privacy and security
- Copyright and ownership

Additionally our Computing Scheme: Purple Mash is a great teaching resource with topics specifically for each age group on Internet safety.

School Grounds

We have some wonderful volunteers - The PTA Green Team - who have offered to support our work to make use of the school environment to support children and to improve the grounds for the children. THANK YOU!
Some of the enhancements are outlined below. Should you be able to join our team or offer any donations or help, please do get in touch with the school office.

Pots & Tubs

Purchasing plants and shrubs to brighten up the front of the school and pots and planters around the school.

Willow pruning, shed painting, mud kitchen clean up

Gardening Club

Starting next term, this will encourage the children of St Mary's to help look after our environment and take responsibility for growing vegetables, flowers and fruit. More information to follow.

School Lunches

DON'T FORGET

**The office will need to preorder meals from the caterers before the end of term for the first week back.
Please order meals for the first week back by midnight on Wednesday 16th February 2022.
(Should you fail to order meals for March 1 -4th, your child will need to bring a packed-lunch).**

Pen Recycling



Wiltshire Air Ambulance is a helicopter emergency medical service serving Wiltshire and surrounding areas, including Bath and Radstock. The service was launched in 1990, but since 2015 it has been run by Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust, a registered charity.

We now have a collection box placed at the front office for pen recycling to raise funds for this wonderful charity.

Please save and recycle all of your old and used pens including Pens, Felt Tips, Markers, Highlighters and Correction Fluid.



PTA NEWS



Tuesday 22nd February is
TWOSDAY!



This special date, 22/2/22, will only happen once in our lifetime.
Let's have some half term fun and raise some money for St Mary's PTA!

Just for fun

Here are some '2' related activities - what else can you think of?

Do 2 random acts of kindness (write a thank you letter, bake a cake, donate 2 toys to charity)

Make a picture of the number 2 using different colours/textures/shapes

Play snap or a memory matching game!

Make a string and cup telephone (of course you'll need 2 people!)

Make a piece of art with 2D shapes

Collect leaves, twigs and stones and make the date 22/2/22

Fundraising ideas

You can use the form on the other side to ask your friends and family to sponsor you!

Spend 20 hours outside over half term, or 2 hours everyday

Read 2 books or 22 pages

Get active! Walk 2 miles, take 2022 steps, or do 22 sit-ups

Collect 2p, 20p and £2 coins in an empty sweet tube

Pick up 22 pieces of litter

Learn your 2 (or 22!) times table

Can you think of any more ideas?
Could you write a diary entry to share what you get up to?

We'd love to see what you do!
Please send photos to your teacher on Class Dojo and bring in any donations by Friday 4th March.



Community Notices:

(We bring these to your attention, without necessarily recommending them)

HENRY is a free 8 week evidence based programme which supports families with children aged 0-5 to give them a great start in life and to develop a healthier lifestyle for the whole family. It supports physical and emotional wellbeing and covers nutrition, physical activity, portion sizes, screen time, looking after yourself, exploring children's and parent's feelings and managing challenging behaviour. A relaxed and informal course which gives parents the opportunity to share experiences and ideas with other parents. Each parent receives a free set of helpful family resources – a course book, which includes recipe and activity ideas; children's story books and soft ball, charts and more.

Cook It is currently being delivered online and is a five week cook along programme that aims to motivate and provide families with the skills and confidence to plan, prepare and cook healthy budget friendly family meals and to improve knowledge about healthy eating by covering topics such as eat well plate, portion sizes, healthy snacks. Upon completion of the course you get a £25 supermarket voucher and certificate.

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



**FREE five week online course for
parents and children**

**Join a virtual group cookery session with
optional cook along to discover how to
make easy, healthy recipes**

- Free recipe booklet and links to our **NEW** video recipes
- Support with meal planning and budgeting
- Every family who completes the course receives a **£25 supermarket voucher** to put towards buying ingredients or equipment for recipes

Upcoming course start dates:
4-5pm Tuesday 28th February
5-6pm Wednesday 2nd March
4-5pm Thursday 3rd March

Call or email the Community Wellbeing Hub to book
Tel: 0300 247 0050
Email: CWHBanes@hrcgcaregroup.com

HENRY Healthy Families programme

Even during this uncertain time, we're still here to help you give your little ones a great start in life.

The HENRY programme is completely **FREE** to join for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 5 years old.



The programme provides everything you need to help your little one get off to a great start.

We cover the 5 following themes across 8 weeks:

- Feeling more confident as a parent
- Physical activities for the little ones
- What children and the whole family eats
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

Each week there is either an online or in-person session. See below for dates.

You'll also receive a free **toolkit** with lots of fantastic resources.

The programme is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other families in a safe environment!

Programme details

Tuesday 29 March 1.30-2.30pm (online)
Wednesday 27 April 1.30-2.30pm (online)
Thursday 5th May 12.30-2.30 (In person at Radstock Children's Centre)



Get in touch to sign up now!

Contact Us

Bookings on HENRY courses are essential. Contact the Wellbeing Service Hub on 0300 247 0050 or email BATHNES.thehub@hrcgcaregroup.com





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Bath & North East
Somerset Council



LEAP is a free programme for families of children and young people who are above a healthy weight*

1-1 support via telephone or video call for children aged 5-10 (with family) and those aged 10-17 years

Covering topics around:

- Healthy food and drink swaps
- Physical Activity / active play
- The impact of screen time
- Why we make certain food choices

To book a place or find out more contact the Community Wellbeing Hub:

t: 0300 247 0050

e: CWHBanes@hrcrgcaregroup.com or
Kimberley.Tyler@hrcrgcaregroup.com

*Referral criteria apply

Service provided by



The Community Wellbeing Hub offers one number that residents can call to access a range of services and advice that will help you to stay well and support your health and wellbeing. We offer support for :-

Housing	Stopping smoking
Feeling isolated, lonely or anxious	Money advice & benefits support
Keeping active & healthy	Achieving a healthy weight
Accessing food, transport or medication	Employment issues & advice

Please give us a call and we will be happy to help you

Call 0300 247 0050
Monday to Friday from 9 am until 5 pm

Alternatively, you can contact us by text: 07870 868368

CWHBanes@hrcrgcaregroup.com

communitywellbeinghub.co.uk

The Hub is a collaboration between Bath & North East Somerset Council, HCRG Care Group, and third sector organisations including Age UK BaNES, Bath Mind, Citizens Advice, Curo, DHI and 3SG

Volunteering in B&NES

The **Community Volunteer Service** Bath and North East Somerset has a wide range of **local volunteering opportunities** that you can sign up to.



Do you have spare time to help support your local community?

- Variety of exciting roles
- Flexible timings to suit you
- Meet new people
- Gain new skills
- Boost confidence
- Help others



Join our database of volunteers

Sign up to the Community Volunteer Service database to hear about the most recent, exciting new volunteering opportunities in your area.

Do not underestimate the benefits, to yourself and others, of volunteering if you have time, it would be greatly appreciated!

Sign up today!



or visit:
www.bit.ly/3BENEG

0300 247 0050

T: 0300 247 0050 E: bathnes.volunteerservices@hrcrgcaregroup.com