

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 Courage: 'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'**

*Joshua 1.9*

### Our Achievers:

**Little Oaks:** Zack W for being generally fabulous, Oakley for his joined handwriting, Maddi for her creativity in all she does

**Class 1:** Seb for always being ready to learn and lots of thoughtful responses, Erinn D for amazing reading and phonics - so impressive

**Class 2:** Isabelle for explaining her thinking clearly in maths, Jayden for showing greater concentration and independence

**Class 3:** Murphy for independent maths work, Elsa and Alfie G for writing amazing setting descriptions and Elsa for brilliant work from last week

**Class 4:** Autumn for creativity in literacy and Layla for an amazing report with adjectives

**Class 5:** Mylee for phenomenal perseverance in handwriting and English, Hollie for being a supportive friend and offering to help others with their work

**Class 6:** Kelsey for demonstrating a fantastic attitude to learning, Amelia for focussing on her learning which has resulted in great improvements in her writing.

**Other achievers:** Pen Licence: Olivia - well done! Leia for gaining a majorettes badge

### School diary dates:

#### January

30<sup>th</sup> Football match V Clutton (Home)  
CANCELLED

31<sup>st</sup> PTA Cake Sale - Please bring in donations

#### February

14<sup>th</sup> End of Term 3

24<sup>th</sup> **INSET - no school for children**

25<sup>th</sup> Term 4 starts

#### March

5<sup>th</sup> **World Book Day Dress-Up**

17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings 3:30-6:30 (letters to follow)

25<sup>th</sup> KS1/KS2 Dance Umbrella at the Forum



To conclude their inspirational topic this term on 'The Gruffalo', Class 1, have enjoyed a Gruffalo tea party. Children tasted delicious food such as roasted fox sandwiches, scrambled snake and drank purple prickly juice.





## Fortnite!! Really??

More and more children in the school are talking about playing the game 'Fortnite'. Whilst we understand the game is very popular, it is also highly **addictive and unsafe** if played without strict monitoring.

Before your child plays Fortnite for the first time or goes back online, we urge you to take the time to learn more about it and the risks by reading the brief articles below. For starters, the game is rated for aged 12 which means it is not recommended for any child at primary school. However, children as young as 5 are saying that they are playing everyday. **There is absolutely no good reason a child this young should be playing the game.** Apart from the mild violence, the game is designed for online chat with other players and is highly addictive. Addictive games often lead to tiredness, extreme behaviour and a lack of interest in other things. Young children simply should not be playing this game.

As a parent it can be difficult to make unpopular decisions for your children. Particularly when people in the media are promoting the game and just about every other child is *doing Fortnite dances* wherever you go. That said, it is really important that your children are kept safe and their well being is protected. Perhaps this is easier if you agree boundaries as a group of parents so all your child's friends are doing the same thing. This has worked for some parents.

**Gaming is good fun but needs to be appropriate and carefully monitored.**

<https://childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fortnite/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

Weekly Attendance:

		2/2/20 - 7/2/20
Little Oaks	97.4%	93.0%
Class 1	98.4%	98.9%
Class 2	95.8%	96.8%
Class 3	97.8%	100% - WOW!
Class 4	97.0%	89.4%
Class 5	92.3%	96.8%
Class 6	98.3%	97.8%

**PTA News - [PTAStMarysWrithlington@gmail.com](mailto:PTAStMarysWrithlington@gmail.com)**

**PTA Storage Shed**

We're looking for any help with replacing the old shed!

Could you spare a few hours to help dismantle the old shed? Or can you help improve the hard standing (currently it's on a bit of a slope)?

Or have you got contacts that might help us get a good quality new shed at a good price? Or help set up the new shed?

Please let Ms Lampert or PTA know.

**Reading Space - The Linkway**

You might have noticed the Linkway is becoming a super reading space with new wall art - a lovely mirror-tile reading tree and Dr Seuss quotations.

PTA are supporting this project by giving time to some 3D art projects, sewing story cushions and making additional bunting. We'd like to have some Story Sacks to inspire children's retelling of familiar stories - if you have any experience of these and could help please let PTA or school know.

This area is great for plants too. Some lovely plants have already been donated. We're looking for donations of medium and large terracotta pots, soil suitable for houseplants, plant food, moss sticks or tall stakes to replot these.

Could you or anyone you know spare a little time to regularly (once a week?) look after the lovely greenery?

**PTA Meetings**

These are held on some Friday mornings in term time 9am-10am. Everyone is welcome. Just sign in at the office first.

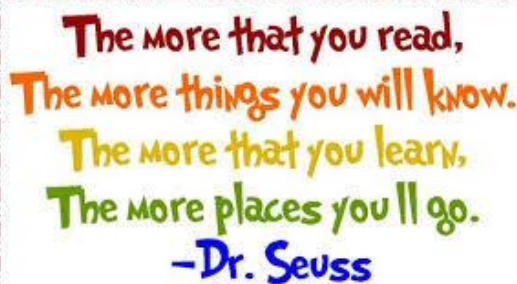
These are mostly planning meetings so cluster around PTA fundraising events.

Dates are always published in the newsletter.

If you have ideas, want to offer support in anyway but can't make the meetings we'd still love you to be involved.

You are automatically part of the PTA when you have children at the school, and we also welcome other family members.

Our next PTA meeting is Friday 28th Feb 2020 9am-10am.



Classes	% of children reading 5x a week			
	Week beginning 13th	Week beginning 20th	Week beginning 27th	Week beginning 3rd
Little Oaks	43%	47%	39%	39%
Class 1	5%	42%	10%	21%
Class 2	21%	21%	10%	11%
Class 3	5%	28%	17%	56%
Class 4	54%	69%	69%	50%
Class 5	65%	51%	42%	65%
Class 6	44%	38%	76%	44%

## Football

St Mary's played a match at home against Clutton primary School on Tuesday night. It was a fantastic game despite the hail storm at half time.

HUGE thanks to Amy who has coached the whole squad for a number of years and through her encouragement has developed the skilful players we have today. Also, thanks to Ben Smith, our volunteer referee who does such a great job.

The children played well with great sportsmanship, encouraging each other and demonstrating St Mary's Values. Well done!



### World Book Day - 5th March

Coming home today are World Book Day Vouchers. Perhaps you'd like to visit a local book shop from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup> and pick up your free World Book day Book or redeem £1 off a different book or audiobook.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM ONLINE ORDERING



Our School uniform is now available to purchase online through our new web store <http://gooddies.co.uk>

### Order Deadline Dates

Orders placed before midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be delivered approximately the end of the month. Orders placed before midnight on the last day of the month will be delivered approximately the middle of the following month. Please allow up to 20 working days from cut off during the busy months of June – September.

Deliveries into school are free however, you do have the option to pay for home delivery at a cost of £6.50 **PLEASE NOTE – Home delivery is not an express option.** Any orders that are due for delivery into school while the schools are closed will be held in our warehouse until the school re-opens.

### Colgate Toothbrushes

Toothbrushes and toothpaste have been donated to school to promote good dental healthcare. We are sending these home today. We will be talking, in classes, about the importance of cleaning teeth at least twice a day, eating less sugary foods and the benefits of visiting the dentist regularly.

### Coronavirus - Updated advice to all early years providers, schools and further education providers.

The government is monitoring Coronavirus and taking action at home and abroad. The risk to individuals remains low.

#### **Encouraging good hygiene**

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take to stop germs:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

For more information or updates on Coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>