



The School Bell



“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”

Ring in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 13 | 12th February 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Value of the month is “Justice”

We raised over £38 for the Really Good School dinner campaign in support of Haiti victims. This is double last year's event and is testament to the caring community spirit of our school. Thank you for your support.

Staff and I wish you a relaxing half-term holiday.

Kind regards,
Miss Taylor.

PTA/ School Council Coffee Afternoon

This will take place on **Thursday 25th February at 1.30-3.00 pm.**

We ask for donations of raffle prizes and cakes in return for the children wearing what they like on the day. Prizes and cakes may be left in school any day after half-term. Cakes and drinks will be £1. Proceeds will be shared between our school council and PTA funds. **While just into Lent, it is a good opportunity to use up any flour, eggs and sugar you may have in the kitchen!**



Contact Inspector visits

Mr. Huw Evans is our LA Contact Inspector and School Improvement partner. He visits at least five times a year and his reports are part of the OFSTED process. Huw has spent three mornings looking at progress and observing lessons and his comments are most helpful. Huw noted the very good behaviour of our children, the extremely positive relationships between adults and pupils and the amazing work ethic! He noted the vast majority of children on task and focusing well in lessons.

So top marks for St. Mary's!

Dates for your diary...

Good News assembly -

Every Thursday 2:45pm at school, parents, family and friends all welcome.

February

22nd - Term resumes Rev Pridie leading Assembly
Extended School Coordinator, Mrs. Catherine Close visiting

25th - Wear What You like day and Coffee Afternoon
1:30-3:00pm

March

4th - Whole school music day with Pedro Brown.
Meeting for Year 6 parents re SATs, 3:30pm.

9th - Governors' Finance Meeting 3:30pm

10th - ACTS 2 leading Assembly

14th - Miss Taylor and Mrs. Robinson, Swimming course.

16th - Parents' Evening Class 1 3:30-6:00pm, details to follow • Meeting of the full Governing Body 6:00pm
• Safeguarding Training - 7:00pm-8:30pm

27th - PTA Easter Extravaganza

1st April - Easter Service 2pm in Church. End of term.

Swimming at Ross Pool

Lessons at Ross are well underway and groups reorganized to ensure each child is working at the right level. Mrs. Robinson and Miss Taylor will spend a wet Sunday after half-term updating their instructors' qualification! **Don't forget your kit on Friday!**

PTA “Easter Extravaganza”

PTA have set the date **Saturday 27th March** - watch this space for details!



St. Mary's C of E Primary School | Biggs Lane | Fownhope | Hereford | HR1 4PG
www.st-marys-fownhope.co.uk | email: info@st-marys-fownhope.co.uk

School Office open from 8:30am, call: 01432 860474 | Headteacher: Miss Allyson Taylor

Uniform!

The School Uniform Shop is able to supply St Mary's badged reversible shower proof fleeces. These are very smart and of good quality. We will display a sample at the nearly new stall after Good News Assembly.

Following discussion at the last Governors' meeting, Miss Taylor is to discuss pricing of the badged uniform with the shop. We will keep you informed of any changes.

After School Club

A reminder that there are a maximum of 10 places available for this care and some are booked by "regulars" in advance. We urge parents to book early to avoid disappointment! Mrs. Watkins keeps a list of children booked in each day and Mrs. Squires has a copy to help with enquiries.

Requests for Holiday absence

We remind parents that any requests should be made in writing at least 6 weeks prior to the absence. Holiday absence is granted in exceptional circumstances only and is not given within two months of tests which children sit in Years 2,3,4,5,6.

The policy on holiday absence is available on request.

VLE – Virtual Learning Environment

St. Mary's has begun this innovative way for children to link learning from school at home.



Mrs. Buck and Class 4 have begun learning how to use "It's Learning," Herefordshire's provider of the VLE platform. The VLE allows children and teachers to set and complete work to be done on line. VLEs are completely secure. We have received funding to enable this work to be rolled out to all classes.

Safeguarding Course

16th March 7:00-8:30pm -
FREE to parent helpers and any other interested parents



Keeping children safe is major news these days and you are aware of the need for all adults working with children to be CRB checked.

In addition to this, adults having contact with children are advised to have Level 1 Safeguarding training to help identify and act on any signs of a child being harmed. Teachers and support staff completed the training last summer. Governors have arranged a training session led by Mr. Dennis Longmore, Manager of Inclusion for Herefordshire Council. The training is free and will be attended by governors, PTA members and some staff new to school. As parent helpers or interested parents you are invited to join us. The course is a nationally recognized qualification and is offered free of charge. Please let Mrs. Squires know if you would like to attend.

Term dates 2010

Spring Term 2010:

Term starts	4th Jan 2010
Half term	15th – 19th Feb 2010
Term ends	1st April 2010

Summer Term 2010:

Term starts	19th April 2010
May Day	3rd May 2010
Half term	31st May – 4th June 2010
Term ends	20th July 2010

Playgroup News

Playgroup is open 4.5 days a week from 9-3.00, and 9.00-1.00 on Wednesdays. Mums and Tots takes place on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm. Mrs. Jane Presdee is the new playgroup assistant and joins Bethryn, Liz and Jess this week.

Sessions are now open to children aged 2 and above.

St. Mary's C of E Primary School – Board of Governors includes:

Allyson Taylor – Headteacher | Jaine Yule – Chairman | William Dereham – Vice Chairman
Sian Nunn – Parent Governor