



The School Bell



“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”

Ring in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 22 | 19th November 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Value of the month, November - 'Safety'

Classes have received valuable fire safety training from our local Fire Protection Officer. In Assemblies the children have been reminded about playing safely as our first aid records show 90% of minor injuries occur on the playground from falls. Long trousers and tights under skirts seem to help prevent grazes to knees. The children noticed this for themselves! We have also found out that to really wash our hands we should do so for as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice! So if you hear your child singing this while in the bathroom you know why!

Thank you for your cooperation with regard to the car park. Almost all parents are now using the lane entrance and this reassures us that the children are out of the path of vehicles at the start and end of the school day. A growing number of children are cycling to school and we support this eco friendly method of transport but ask that children wear cycle helmets.

Kind regards,
Miss Taylor

School Council & PTA News

The coffee afternoon raised £340 with proceeds shared between PTA and the council. Mrs. Green and the councillors are choosing new cooking equipment with the funds. A separate treasure hunt was organised by children in Class 4 towards Concern Universal's water appeal. £30 was raised from that activity alone and CU is delighted to receive this, particularly when it was the children's idea. Thank you for your generosity in providing cakes and raffle prizes and for your support on the day.

Sports Successes

Congratulations to our football squad who were narrowly beaten on penalties in the final of the Cluster Tournament. We have a whole page article by our own Mrs. Brotherwood in the Hereford FA County magazine. The article describes the excellent provision for the beautiful game at our school; 50% of our children took part in football last school year. No doubt Mrs. B, Steve and Leon will work on the other 50%!

Jim Shields, rugby coach, is currently working with Classes 3 and 4 each week. We hope Jim will be able to offer an after school club next year.

We are delighted that Yoga is to continue after Christmas with teacher, Lyn, working with Class 4. Her lessons with Class 3 have been extremely successful and popular with the children.

Welcome to new members of our School

Christie Murrain joined Class 3 after half term and has settled well, making new friends. Ms. Angela Creedy is our new cleaner, replacing Judy Dickenson. We wish Judy well in her new venture offering alternative therapy. Mrs Catherine Close is already known to us in her role as Extended schools coordinator for Bishop's cluster of schools, she is also a qualified therapeutic counsellor. Catherine is to work for us as a school counsellor and offer support to any child who may be experiencing difficulties with for example, self esteem, organisational skills, friendships, or worries about school or home. If you think she might help your child please let us know.

Dates for your diary...

PTA Christmas Fair, 12th December at 4:00pm
Watch for details on PTA letters.

Good News assembly - Every Thursday 2:45pm at school, parents, family and friends all welcome

November

23rd - Antibiotic awareness training in Class 4

29th - Wind instrument demonstration

• Meeting of the full Governing Body, 7pm.

30th - Road Safety talent contest in Assembly

December

2nd - All classes, theatre visits leaving school at 8:30am

3rd - Class 4 perform in Concert at Shire Hall - Sing up! project

8th - Christmas dinner, Classes 1 and 3

9th - Christmas dinner, Classes 2 and 4. • Wear Home clothes day for bottles, cakes and home produce for the fair.

10th - Farmers Market in the School Hall 3:00-6:00pm

12th - PTA Christmas Fair 4:00pm

13th - Nativity in Church, 2pm - preschool children and families welcome

15th - Nativity in Church, 6pm

16th - PTA party, children may wear party clothes.

17th - Term ends

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

Christmas dinner

This is now fully booked for parents/family of children in Classes 2 and 4 on December 9th. Please only send in money/forms for children wishing to have dinner. Children not having Christmas dinner on their class's day will need a packed lunch to eat in the classroom. Please note there is no other hot food available on those days.

8th December Dinner for Classes 1 and 3 – Classes 2 and 4 and any in 1 and 3 not having dinner need a packed lunch.

9th December Dinner for Classes 2 and 4 – Classes 1 and 3 and any in 2 and 4 not having dinner need a packed lunch. Please ask if you are unsure about the arrangements.

This is also a "Wear home clothes day" for bottles, cakes and home made produce for the school fair.

Vandalism Update

Information passed on to us regarding those involved is in the hands of West Mercia Police. The police have asked that if you notice anything suspicious or see anti social behaviour in the village you call them on 0300 333 3000 and report your concerns. It seems that no one did so on the 30th October, even though residents had been concerned about the behaviour of some young people out and about at the time.

Daylights Theatre Visit

This renowned theatre company is to perform a play on an Egyptian theme to the whole school on 22nd November. We extend our thanks to Sue Dereham, who is a connection of Hugh Young, one of the directors and secured this treat at an amazingly cheap rate!

Junior Road Safety Officers

Anna Williams and Louis Parkin have been elected to this responsible role. They have already organised a talent contest with entries to perform an item to promote road safety.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

£66 was raised by this appeal – the highest amount from school in several years and double last year's total.

Wind Instrument Lessons

Lorna Ruth from the Instrumental Music Service is to demonstrate flute, clarinet and saxophone to Classes 3 and 4 on 29th November. We have two children already interested and need another one or two to hold weekly lessons. Please contact Mrs. Barrand if you are interested in your child taking up one of these instruments.

Term dates 2010/2011

Autumn Term 2010:

Term starts	Monday 6th September 2010
Half term	25th-29th October 2010
Term ends	17th December 2010

Spring Term 2011:

Term starts	5th January 2011
Half term	21st-25th February 2011
Term ends	14th April 2011

Summer Term 2011:

Term starts	4th May 2011
Half term	30th May-3rd June 2011
Term ends	22nd July 2011

Playgroup news

You may already know that Jess Talbot is expecting a baby in May. We wish her and her partner Steve well and look forward to another little one joining playgroup in the future. This means we will be recruiting for maternity cover next term. If you are interested in working in playgroup and after school club please speak to Beth, Sue Dereham, Morrison or Miss Taylor at school. Playworker or childcare qualifications are preferred and the post is subject to the usual CRB check.

No other school in this area has a playgroup on site that caters for age 2 up with wrap around care from 8am to 5pm in line with school. The joint sessions with Reception and playgroup take place all year and prepare children extremely well for transition into Class 1. There are a small number of places in some sessions, particularly in the afternoons, if you know of any families with pre-school age children in the area who might be interested, please encourage them to contact us. Mums and Tots continue to meet in the playgroup room on Wednesday afternoons.



Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal

A record number of 55 shoeboxes were collected and each will make a child in less fortunate circumstances happy on Christmas day. Your kind hearts and care for others is another example of how our school is a Christian community in action.

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