



# The School Bell



*“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”*

Ring in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 23 | 13th January 2011

## Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Value of the month, January - 'Growing up'

The Spring term is now well underway and children have settled back into the routines of school. We began term with the children considering the true spirit of Christmas by comparing styles of Christmas cards. It was heartening to note our children recognizing which cards were real Christmas cards – the ones with robins and post boxes were lovely and seasonal but the ones showing the Wise Men and Holy family were picked out as sending the real message. While we hope that we have had our fair share of snow, please remember to look at the Herefordshire Council website which has the latest news of any school closures. While some schools were unable to open due to burst pipes we are fortunate to have dedicated staff and governors keeping an eye on the building during the holiday and have had no problems in that respect.

Staff and I wish you a belated Happy 2011 and send our thanks for the many thoughtful and generous gifts. We have enough goodies in the staffroom to last till February!

Kind regards,  
Miss Taylor

## Farewell to Rev Will and Wendy Pridie

We said a fond farewell to Will who has been a stalwart supporter of school for many years. He and Wendy have retired and now live in Leominster so we hope we may see them out and about. They are sadly missed in the village and especially in our school.

## Parent Governor News

Mrs. Jaine Yule was the sole nominee for the vacancy of parent governor and so is duly appointed. Jaine continues to fulfill the demanding role of Chair of Governors and meets with school staff and Miss Taylor most weeks to advise and support school developments.

## PTA News

The Christmas Fair was a wonderful afternoon of fun and festivities. The PTA members organised a lovely event with activities for all ages. The proceeds are in the region of £1,200, a fantastic result in these austere times.



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 13TH JANUARY, 6.30PM.

## Baby News

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs. Gibbs is expecting a baby in July. Mrs. Gibbs plans to be with us until mid June and we send our congratulations to her, Steve and Poppy. Can it really be getting on for 3 years since Poppy arrived?

## Absence procedure

If your child is absent please contact the school office by 9.30am on the first day of absence. Doing so ensures we have an accurate record of any children not in school and the reason for this. There is no need to write a letter if you have contacted us by phone or in person.

## Dates for your diary...

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

### January

**13th** - PTA Committee meeting, 6.30pm in school

**21st** - Shortlist for playgroup/After school post, 9.00am; committee meeting to follow • Miss Taylor at Diocese meeting pm

**24th** - Squad compete in Football Community Cup

**25th** - Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Gooch attend Fire Marshal training

**26th** - Listening Link Buddies Training @ BHBS

**28th** - Interview for playgroup/After school post • Staffing and Finance Committee meet 3.30pm

### February

**1st** - Meeting of the full governing body, 7pm

**9th** - ACTS 2 lead Assembly

**10th** - Miss Taylor in York, Inspectors course

**w/c 14th** - Interim reports home

**17th** - Teachers available to parents 3.20-c5.00pm

**18th - 25th** Half term. NB INSET day for staff only 18th February.

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

## Playgroup/After school care vacancy

We seek an additional qualified member of staff to cover some hours this term and more in the Summer term when Jess begins maternity leave. Please see Bethryn or Sue Dereham if you are interested. Closing date is 20th January.

## Staying healthy



At the end of term a number of children were sent home during the school day with colds and flu type illnesses. Please keep your child at home if they have been unwell over the previous day and night. This allows them to get better quicker and helps avoid the spread of viruses to others.

If your child needs paracetamol/ibuprofen during the day we ask you to keep them at home resting. First Aid staff will administer prescription medicines on request but we prefer not to administer "Calpol" type medication. This is in line with guidance on administration of medicines in schools.

Reminder – water only in water bottles! Children may bring squash or fruit juice to drink at lunch but only water is allowed during lessons. This is an important part of our Healthy School policy which we ask you to support in the interests of good dental health.

## School Security

**We respectfully remind parents that they should not enter school except by the main office entrance.**

As in all schools, fire and security rules insist that visitors must be signed in and supervised while in the building. In the interests of safety and security we ask you to leave all messages for teachers at the office. All the children are able to put their own belongings in the right places at the start of the day. If you need to speak to a teacher we ask that you arrange this via the office, NOT come into school by the children's entrances to talk to a member of staff. It is difficult for teachers to speak to parents when the children enter school and lessons begin at 8.50am. If parents are at breakfast club we ask that they remain in the hall and leave by the hall entrance

Following an accident at another school, Herefordshire Health and Safety Officers have asked that all schools reinforce security procedures. In that instance a pre-school sibling was hurt in the playground and we ask that parents supervise toddlers and pre-schoolers closely before and after school.

## Class 3 VLE/ ICT news

ICT consultant, Mark Sanderson, has spent time with Class 3 as they begin to use the Virtual Learning Environment, now embedded into Class 4's work.

**Advance Notice – 15th MARCH, ICT evening for parents.**

We have received advice about a website, 'Little Gossip', where cyberbullying has been noticed. If your child uses this site we strongly advise that you block such use and protect your child from possible bullying.

## Wind Instrument Lessons



We welcome Lorna Ruth from the Music Service who begins flute lessons with some pupils this term. Lorna joins our growing team of music teachers who offer individual lessons in school time.

## Counseling service

Catherine Close offers support to children who have difficulties with self-esteem, friendships or worries, for example about an ill family member, about home or school. If you think she might help your child please let us know.

## Term dates 2011/2012

### 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

### Autumn Term 2012:

Term starts	Tuesday 4th September 2012
Half term	22nd-26th October 2012
Term ends	21st December 2012

## 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