



# The School Bell



*"What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow"*

Ringing in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 24 | 8th February 2011

## Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Value of the month, February - Justice/Is that Fair?

The snowdrops planted by the children and Mrs. Green are now blooming and are a welcome herald of winter's end. We are grateful to Mrs. Scull and Mrs. Parkin for organizing the rota for the school garden and thank the many other family members who are helping with reading, swimming and art activities this term. Your support makes a real difference to the children.

Kind regards,  
Miss Taylor

## Road Safety poster competition



Winners will be announced and prizes presented in the next Good News Assembly.

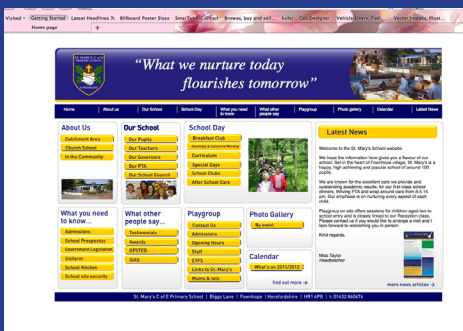
Posters will also be used around school to spread the message about being safe in and around cars.

## Curry Night, 11th February, at 7.30pm



Authentic Indian food, a Cookery Demo and Disco for £5; tickets still available from Mrs. Barrand.

## School website – www.st-marys-fownhope.co.uk. and ICT news



This has recently been updated and you may find it useful to browse if you have not accessed the site before. Our thanks to Deb Biggs for masterminding the website.

VLE? Espresso?  
Education city? Is your child using IT you haven't

come across before? If so we can help! We have an ICT evening for parents planned for 15th March at 6.00-c7.30pm

Part of the session will be to raise e-safety awareness.  
Details to follow but add the date to your diary now.

## Sainsbury's Active Kids

Please collect these if you shop at Sainsbury's. A collection box is in the foyer.



## Dates for your diary...

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

### February

**11th** - PTA Curry Night at 7.30pm

**15th** - Football match (H) v Riverside – no football club on that night

**17th** - Teachers available to parents 3.20-5.00pm following Interim Reports

**18th** - Half-term – begins Friday 18th February; term resumes on Monday 28th.

### March

**3rd** - World Book Day – Dress up as favourite book character

**5th** - Swimming gala

**7th** - Room for All meeting, 3.15 in school

**10th** - SATs tests meeting for Year 6 parents, 3.20pm

**11th** - Staffing and Finance Governors meet, 3.30pm

**15th** - ICT evening for parents, 6pm - 7.30pm

**22nd** - Meeting of the full Governing Body

**Spring term ends 14th April following Easter Service.**

## Sports news

Well done our gallant football squad who were beaten in the semi-final in the Community Cup event. As ever, we competed against much larger schools and acquitted ourselves very well.



Class 4 children are receiving specialist sports coaching this term with Yoga and Tag Rugby. A cluster sports event for Class 3 takes place on 9th March.

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

## Staff News

We welcome Jemma Slane as our new member of staff in Playgroup and after school care. Jemma is covering Jess's maternity leave and working some hours before Easter. Jemma joins us from Trinity school and we extend a warm Fownhope welcome to her!

## Room For All – Jubilee Appeal

A group of school governors, playgroup trustees and members of the local community is working on an exciting project to raise funds for a new room. This multi- use space will be on the lane side of school and be available for our use during the day and for meetings or adult classes out of hours. The new space will allow playgroup to remain in school in their current space. If you are interested in helping please let us know, particularly if you can help with sources of funding. We have quite a challenge if the room is to be ready for September 2012.

## Change to term date

The summer term will now end a day early, thanks to the Royal Wedding which falls in our existing holiday, and the DFE's decision to award schools an additional day in lieu of the extra Bank Holiday in April. Please note the change – Term ends on Thursday 21st July.

## Free School Meals

You may not know that school receives extra income for every child registered for free school meals. Families do not have to use the meals but if a form is returned we receive extra funding. Mrs. Barrand has forms which are returned to Herefordshire council. Please consider this as we think there may be families who are eligible and are not registered.



## Good Communication

The Schoolcomms text messaging service is up and running. A few families have not given us mobile details and we urge you to do so. The system allows us to notify you by text of, for example, a club cancellation, the return time for a visit or even if we have to close due to bad weather.

Mrs. Barrand is also sending home a data sheet which shows all the current contact and medical information on our SIMS database for your child/ren. As a matter of urgency, please check and return these with any amendments to ensure we have accurate data.

## Easter Service – Advance notice

Tony Kelk has kindly agreed to preside and our service is on 14th April at 2.00pm in St. Mary's Church.

## Requests for Holiday Absence

It is our policy to encourage full attendance and advise against children missing school for family holidays. Children's achievement is affected by absence. We look at each request individually and bear in mind special circumstances. We do not give holiday absence in the 8 weeks up to national tests in May and June. Children in Years 2-6 sit tests at this time. Overall attendance is looked at and unfortunately if a child's attendance is below 90% we will not authorise holiday absence.

Please bear this in mind when considering a request.

## 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.

*Don't Forget*

DVD & Video Film library along with second hand uniform sale Thursdays after Good News Assembly.



*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	21st July 2011

### Autumn Term 2011:

Term starts	Tuesday 4th September 2011
Half term	24th-28th October 2011
Term ends	16th December 2011

## 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