



# The School Bell



*“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”*

Ring in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 25 | 17th March 2011

## Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Value of the month, March - Friendship

The better weather has made us all feel more cheerful. We have welcomed several friends to school since half-term. Local neighbours, Julie Cohn, Tony Corby and Rachael Best, have visited us to support the Room for All Appeal. We were delighted to show around members of the Parish council which has pledged support for the new room. Tony Kelk has led worship and is working with Class 4 on RE connected to holy week as preparation for our Easter Service. CSO Martin Butcher visited assembly to introduce himself and his role as a Community Support Officer. Sarah Somers, our Local Authority Improvement partner, spent a third day in school observing lessons with me and making judgments on the overall quality of provision. I am delighted to tell you that teaching and learning, the curriculum and care, guidance and support were awarded good or outstanding in every respect. In fact we have one more outstanding than in 2010! Niki Summers (no relation to Sarah), a numeracy consultant, spent 2 days working with Mrs. Gooch and staff on improvements to numeracy.

So, St. Mary's goes from strength to strength and there are many signs of growth to celebrate alongside the daffodils! Talking of which we would dearly like to plant up the new wooden planters by the main entrance, kindly donated by Guy Best. If anyone has any suitable plants to spare please let the office know.

Kind regards,  
Miss Taylor.

## Welcome to new members of our family

Liberty Miles and Aliyah Perkins joined Year 3 after half-term. We hope they feel at home with us already and we look forward to getting to know them and their families more in the coming weeks.

We offer another welcome to our extended school family in the youngest member of the team – Alfie Weaver, Mrs. B's grandson, who was born in half term and has already visited, with Mum, Clare, for a school dinner!

## Sainsbury's Active Kids

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



## Celebration of Poetry

On Monday 21st March Donovan Christopher, poet and rap poet will be in school as part of the Schools Library Service Book Festival, to lead a lively session with all the children. Please check your child's book bag for a letter giving full details.

## Dates for your diary...

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

### March

21st - Donovan Wilson - Poet

24th - Meeting of the full Governing Body

### April

5th - Rural schools Football and Netball tournament at Credenhill

7th - Wear what you like in return for Easter theme prizes and cakes for the Extravaganza

7th - PTA Committee meeting 6:30pm

8th - Last swim this term for Years 1,2,3,4.

9th - PTA Easter Extravaganza

13th - ACTS 2 in assembly

14th - Easter Service in Church, 2pm, Term ends.

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

## Sports news -

### St. Mary's competes in a wide range of events

Shortly before half term we hosted the cluster **netball tournament** and were runners up. Well done to all concerned and thanks to Mrs. Blair for her excellent coaching and to PTA for providing refreshments and moral support.

Class 4 are enjoying specialist **tag rugby** coaching in lesson time, provided by Keith Nind, PE specialist based at Bishop's.

**STOP PRESS!** We won, again, the **Cluster tag rugby tournament** and qualify to play in the area finals at Luctonians on 30th march. Congratulations to the squad and Mrs. Brotherhood for an outstanding result with every game won.

12 Children from class 3 attended a **multi- skills sports session** as part of Bishop's cluster.

A squad of 19 children took part in the county **swimming gala** on Saturday 5th March. We were placed in several timed heats but not quick enough to secure many medals. Many congratulations to **Immie Best** in year 5 for winning a **silver medal** in the year 5 girls' breaststroke. A special thank you to Sian Nunn who organised the squad, and to Jane Beresford and Catherine Drury for managing the team poolside with Miss Taylor. Also thanks to the parents who came to cheer us on in the sauna-like heat of the leisure pool for 3 hours! I think you deserve a medal as well as the swimmers!

St. Mary's C of E Primary School | Biggs Lane | Fownhope | Hereford | HR1 4PG  
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School Office open from 8:30am, call: 01432 860474 | Headteacher: Miss Allyson Taylor

## PTA Easter Extravaganza

PTA are busy planning for this event, which will take place on Saturday 9th April between 2.00 and 4.00pm. A fun-packed time can be expected with an Easter Egg hunt, egg decorating, crafts, quizzes and lots more. There will be a plant and produce stall this year, donations of plants and seedlings should be brought to the school office on Tuesday 5th, not the 12th as on the recent flyer.



## School Improvement partner visit

In addition to grading aspects of the provision for our children, Sarah Somers commented on the exceptional relationships across ages and classes and the outstanding behaviour of all the children she met. Sarah described St. Mary's as a very special place with a "magical" atmosphere. High praise indeed from Sarah, who is an OFSTED inspector as well as a SIP for Herefordshire schools.

## World Book Day 3rd March



Several famous book characters, many looking rather like our children(!) spent the day at St. Mary's and enjoyed a splendid afternoon of cakes and fun. The coffee afternoon raised over £300 for our Room for All appeal.

We also had Tigger (looking pregnant!), two Red Riding hoods, Mr. Darcy, Harry Potter and Hedwig and Puss in Boots in the staffroom.

Photos of the classes in costume are available from the Office if you wish to purchase any.

## Free School Meals

Some families may not know they are eligible for free school meals. Even if you do not wish to use these, being registered as eligible brings in more money to school and so helps all the children. Please ask Mrs. Barrand for a form even if you don't intend to use the meals..



## Schoolcomms text messaging system

This system is now operational and you will receive a text letting you know if eg. a club is cancelled, we have to close due to snow or to notify you of a return time from a trip, GNA certificates. A small number of families have not yet given mobile details to the office. Please do so as we cannot guarantee to phone individual families for messages communicated by Schoolcomms.

## Tree Surgery

We are delighted that at last the dead trees outside Class 3 are to be felled. We expect this on 25th March when we ask you to take extra care near the area.

## Requests for Holiday Absence

Our policy is not to give permission for absence in the 8 school weeks prior to SATs tests which are taken in Years 2 and 6 during May/June. Other year groups also have assessments at this time. Please bear this in mind if you are considering a request for absence. We look at every request individually and take into account the level of attendance in this school year when making a decision. Unfortunately, if your child's attendance is below 90% we are unlikely to authorise further absence for a holiday.

Please bear this in mind when considering a request.

## Academy status

You may be aware that several schools are considering this option and that our Governors are finding out more about the process and whether St. Mary's would benefit. We will keep you informed of how our discussions are progressing and consult you in the event of any possible change to our school. In the next year more than half the high schools and some primaries in the county will be academies which means they are independent schools outside of local authority control. Please be assured no change is imminent in Fownhope but that we are looking at the issue from all angles, not least our status as a church school.

## 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 6th 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