



# The School Bell



*“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”*

Ring in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 46 | 5th February 2013

## Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Christian Value for February – Understanding

Thank you for your understanding during the recent snow. We tried to open on one day to find only a handful of children made it in and as the weather worsened, decided to close. We apologise for the late posting on the council website regarding closure on 23rd. This was due to technical problems at the Council which were beyond our control. The council communications team has rectified the problem and apologised for the inconvenience caused. The system should now work! We put messages on our school website, BBC Hereford and Worcester and sent texts to those parents who subscribe to our text messaging service. Hopefully, every family was aware that governors and I had decided to close for the day. In the event of further possible closures please check the council website, the school one and your text/email messaging service. We will send any messages via all three systems.

Kind regards,

Miss Taylor.

## Welcome

Laura and Emma Lempinan who have joined Mrs. Buck's/Mrs. Blair's class and Mrs. Brotherwood's class. A belated welcome to Ms Bames who is teaching Year 3 for most of this term.

## Shakespeare for Schools - Romeo & Juliet



Years 5 and 6 will begin this amazing project shortly. A specialist from the Courtyard theatre will work with our children on an adapted version of Romeo and Juliet. The play will be performed at the Courtyard in June. We plan to adapt this work for our summer production – watch out, “star-crossed lovers” about! Mrs. Buck

and Miss Taylor will be directing the project at our end and are already brimming with ideas!

## Dinners

Please use the order forms sent home. It is vital we have your child's name, class, days requested and menu choices with £2.20 a day/£11 per week. Adult meals are subject to VAT and are £2.50.

## Local Authority review – St. Mary's described as good or outstanding in all areas.

We were delighted to invite and welcome four inspectors/consultants from Herefordshire School Improvement service on 29th January. You will recall that we undertook, at our request, a similar review in 2012. As then, St. Mary's has been described as a good school with behaviour and motivation of pupils singled out as exemplary. There was praise for leadership, governors, early years, teaching and learning and notably provision for children with special needs. The SEN consultant stated: *“It is hard to tell, when visiting classes, who the SEN children are; they are so well integrated in all aspects of school.”*

## Dates for your diary...

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

### February

**5th** – Sally McCamley from Hereford Diocese visiting

**11th** – Interviews for teaching post

**14th & 15th** – School and playgroup closed for Staff training – Read Write Inc, phonics.

**18th-22nd February** – Half term

### March

**1st** – Reception year and year 6 height and weight checks

**7th** – World Book Day - dress up as favourite book character

**8th** – Tag Rugby festival

**14th** – Possible Football tournament

**20th** – Year 3 multi-skills session at BHBS

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

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

## Staff news

We seek to recruit a part-time kitchen assistant to support Sally in providing our wonderful dinners. If you are interested in around 4 hours' work each week, please see the office staff for more information.

Governors have agreed to Mrs. Brotherwood's request to reduce her working week from full to part-time. Consequently, we are recruiting a new teacher to class-share in Year 3. We will keep you informed once a new teacher has been appointed. Mrs. Brotherwood will continue to teach Year 3 for three days each week and remain Deputy Head and SENCo on those days. Mrs. Gibbs will be supporting Miss Taylor on occasional other days should both she and Mrs. Brotherwood be out of school.

## Parking around school

You received a letter from the Parish Council which has had a number of complaints about parents parking in Court Orchard. A small number of you are causing problems for example, by blocking driveways and obstructing pavements, particularly opposite the main school gate. We respectfully request that those parents causing the problems show more consideration for residents. We ask that you park on the main road and walk up Biggs Lane. This will improve safety for all. Governors, who are all local residents, wish school to remain on good terms with the village community and neighbours and sadly this is becoming a concern due to the inconsiderate actions of a very small minority of parents.

## Contact and personal details

If your contact details, mobile number etc, or medical information about your child have changed since September, please let the office staff know of any new information to allow us to update our records.

## News from the Classes

Miss Duckett's children have made some tasty porridge for visiting bears and spicy gingerbread to sample.

In Mrs. Gooch's class many of the children have achieved their writing targets already this term.

With Mrs. Richards' help, Year 2 children have created beautiful art work linked to their work on food.

In Year 3, the children are learning about India and trying out some yoga in PE.

Mrs. Gibbs' class have experimented with Egyptian hieroglyphics and investigating solids and liquids in Science.

Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Buck's children are finding out about Victorian Britain, looking at art work and creating poetry in the style of authors like Edward Lear.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2013

## Thursday 7th March

As in previous years, your children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character for the day. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume reflecting a children's book.



## Free School Meals

If you receive particular benefits your child will be entitled to free hot meals. Please ask for more information regarding this. School receives additional funding for any child in receipt of free meals even if the meals are not taken.

## Playgroup

Playgroup needs some quality second hand toys. On the wish list are the following:

Garage, playhouse, carpenters tools, tea sets, pots and pans, wooden puzzles (complete), dressing up outfits, dolls, doll clothes, Doctors sets and doll prams.

## Term dates 2013

### Spring Term 2013

Term starts 7th January 2013

Half term 18th – 22nd February 2013

Term ends 28th March 2013

### Summer Term 2013

Term starts 16th April 2013

Half term 27th – 31st May 2013

Term ends 19th July 2013

## 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