



The School Bell



“What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow”

Ringling in the St. Mary's School news

Issue 60 | 27th February 2014

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mary's Christian Value for February - Happiness

Well, if it makes you happy, I think I got it wrong on the last day of the half term about the school closure. My sincere apologies to those of you who were inconvenienced by that decision.

There are many times in life when we have to make difficult decisions. I have had to make a decision on whether or not to close a school many times over the years as a head. The worst times are when the school is already open and parents have to be contacted to ask them to come and collect the children. The best times are when decisions are made in advance as everyone has the time to prepare accordingly and potentially hazardous journeys are not made. But these are the ones when you have to rely on weather forecasts, which are not guaranteed to be right. We can all make brilliant decisions with the benefit of hindsight.

Take care

Colin Mutton

School Safety – IMPORTANT!

Can we remind all parents who drive their children to school that you should NOT use the school (staff) car park at the front to drop off your children? Vehicles are arriving all the time and children should not be put at risk in this way. As parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your children are in school, unless they are unwell, and also to ensure that they are in school on time. Please do not use the car park as a means of saving a few minutes.

Playgroup

Playgroup – All playgroup children need to book Breakfast Club on 01432 860871 due to high numbers and staff ratios

FREE in exchange for a £1* World Book Day Book Token (*€1.50)

www.worldbookday.com

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2014

World Book Day – Thursday March 6th

Children are welcomed to dress up as a favourite book character. There is a nominal charge of £1 to do so, all proceeds going to the charity Book Aid International. There will be a prize for the best outfit in each class. If you need ideas for outfits, try www.bookaid.org/worldbookday

Children will also receive a £1 book voucher on the day. As an extra challenge, we would like children to bring in a photograph of themselves, titled 'Where I like to read'. These can be as sensible or as unusual as you wish!

Dates for your diary...

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

March: Value - Friendship

Monday 3rd - Class DG's 'Wedding Day'

Tuesday 4th - Shrove Tuesday • Climate Champions conference • Playgroup committee at 1:30pm
Reception Class road Safety talk

Thursday 6th - World Book Day

Friday 7th - Governorr's Finance meeting

Thursday 13th - Football tournament (TBC)

Saturday 15th - Swimming Gala (details to follow)

Monday 17th - Governors' Meeting (6pm)

Tuesday 18th - Rural Schools' Football tournament (at Credenhill)

April:

Friday 4th - Reports go home • PTA Easter event (TBC)
Last swimming session this term

Monday 7th Staff available to discuss reports (3:30 - 5pm)

Friday 11th - Easter Service • Term ends

Monday 28th - Summer Term begins

Wedding Bells

Class DG are off to church next week to take part in their own 'wedding ceremony.' Everyone has their own part to play and they will, I am sure, live up to their roles extremely well. Sadly, no invites to the post wedding party have been issued so far!

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: Mr Colin Mutton

A few words about attendance

LATENESS

I have asked staff to tighten up their registration procedures. In part this will mean applying more strictly our policy regarding late arrivals. **The following is an extract from our Attendance policy:**

Morning registration will be taken at 8.55am. The registers will remain open for 30 minutes after the end of registration (9.25am). Any pupil arriving after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence unless there is an acceptable explanation i.e. school transport was delayed. In cases for example, where the absence at registration was for attending an early morning medical appointment, the appropriate authorised absence code will be entered.

Pupils arriving after the start of school but before the end of the registration period will be treated, for statistical purposes, as present, but will be coded as late before registers close. Pupils who arrive after registration closes will be coded as late after the register closes, an unauthorised absence.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

The school will, from the date of this newsletter forward, be applying the following government regulations, which state: 'From 1 September 2013 legislation prohibits any school from authorising leave of absence for holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.' Any term time absence already approved prior to this newsletter will be excused.

Should parents still choose to take their child out of school for holidays during term time and which do not meet the 'exceptional circumstances' requirement (bereavement, religious observance, Service families) the matter will be referred to Herefordshire Local Authority who may at their discretion issue a penalty notice of £60 a week per child per parent. This fine is payable to the Local Authority and not to ourselves.

I do understand that this decision may be unwelcome but thank you for your support in this matter. If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact the school office.

School Dinners

Reminder: Please send orders in on Thursdays for the following week.

Top Tip – take a photo of your booking form with your phone

IMPORTANT

School Dinners – Please make sure that payments for school dinners are handed in a **SEALED ENVELOPE** clearly marked with your child's name. *Please do not hand loose cash in at Reception.*

School Dinners and Pupil absences

A reminder that, for school and Playgroup children, absent children will automatically receive a lunch credit, but you must report your child/dren's absence to the school office by 9 am to ensure this.

Term dates 2014

Please note the term dates in your diaries.

Spring Term 2014

Term starts Monday 6th January

Half term 17th - 21st February

Term ends Friday April 11th

Summer Term 2014

Term Starts Monday 28th April

Half term May 26th-30th

Term ends Wednesday 16th July

Autumn Term 2014

Term Starts Wednesday 3rd Sept

Half term October 27th-31st

Term ends Thursday 18th December

St. Mary's C of E Primary School - Board of Governors includes:

Colin Mutton - Headteacher | Jaine Yule - Chairman | William Dereham - Vice Chairman
Sian Nunn - Parent Governor