



St. Mary's CE Primary School, Welham Green

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Autumn Term Issue 1
8th September 2023

It is so good to be back in school as the new term and the new year begins - even if it is a bit warmer than many of us would like (or would have preferred it to be during the holiday)! It was a joy on Tuesday morning to see the children literally running through the gate and there has been a positive 'buzz' in school, throughout the week since and some productive work has already taken place. We have welcomed new pupils, staff and parents and it is really good to have the St Mary's community back together.

I always feel that it is an exciting moment standing on the cusp of a new year with the hopes of all the things that might lie ahead as we start the Autumn term and we move the school forward. However, it is also important to remind ourselves of why we are here and reflect on our Mission Statement:

"We are a welcoming Christian community where every child has the chance to flourish. We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future. We're thankful for all that God has provided; proud of where He has placed us; and excited at the potential to come."

We have four priorities for the next 12 months. The first is ensuring high quality education through our curriculum. From the beginning of this term, we will be teaching the St Mary's curriculum which we have been designing over the last year. Our aim has been to put together an aspirational curriculum which allows the pupils to be challenged and to extend their learning. Our second priority is enrichment. We took seriously the comments that were made in the parents' survey last term and we are looking to provide far more enrichment opportunities both as part of the curriculum, as well as outside of it. The Planetarium visit to the Memorial Hall on Wednesday of this week, was the first of such initiatives. We are extending the range of after school clubs and these will be published early next week. Towards the end of last term, we held an Arts Afternoon which was

thoroughly enjoyable and gave the children the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in front of their parents and carers. We have scheduled another one for during this term and some of our children will be involved in the Arts Festival at St Mary's Church at the end of September. Our third and fourth priorities are behaviour and attendance: these are continuing from last year. We made a great deal of progress, but there is still more work for us all to do: behaviour has improved and attendance has increased, but they could both still be better and, as always, I appeal to parents to help with this.

So, I am excited about the year ahead and all that we will achieve together as a community. I will finish my first newsletter contribution of the new year with an aspirational quote from Gabby Douglas that I shared with all the pupils in our first Collective Worship of the year on Tuesday:

"The most important thing is to believe in yourself and know that you can do it."

Have a good weekend

Adrian Petty

Headteacher



Our value this half term is:

Respect

**Respect everyone,
love your fellow-
believers, honour
God, and respect
the authorities.**

1 Peter 2:17

Contact us 8:30am to 4pm at...



01707 276725



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Dellsome Lane, Welham Green, AL9 7NE

One year on...

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

21st April 1926



8th September 2022

As a nation, today we reflect, one year on, on the life and service of our late Queen, Elizabeth II. In Collective Worship this afternoon, we said a prayer remembering her long life of duty and service

There is a story that comes from Dr Iain Greenshields, formerly the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who was a guest at Balmoral Castle during that last weekend when Her Majesty The Late Queen was among us. Elizabeth II surely must go down as one of the greatest examples of someone who had accepted their calling in life, living it out until the very last and whose life was underpinned by a strong faith - key reasons why we have now given her name to one of our classes at St Mary's.

During dinner on the Saturday night The Queen spoke to Dr Greenshields about her sustaining faith and the fact that she was 'at peace'. He recounted that after dinner, he gave her a simple wooden cross which had been made from recycled church pews by prisoners at the prison at Glenochil. He went on to say that the image of her leaving the dining room clutching the wooden cross would remain his enduring memory. She walked away from him, literally, carrying her cross and, just a few days later, went to her eternal reward.

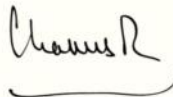
May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



BALMORAL CASTLE

In marking the first anniversary of Her late Majesty's death and my Accession, we recall with great affection her long life, devoted service and all she meant to so many of us.

I am deeply grateful, too, for the love and support that has been shown to my wife and myself during this year as we do our utmost to be of service to you all.



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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
21st April 1926 - 8th September 2022

Contact us 8:30am to 4pm at...
01207 276725
www.stmarysCEA1.net.uk
admin@stmarysCEA1.net.uk
Balfour Lane, Welham Green, A13 7NE

HOUSEPOINTS



I am pleased to report that House Points this week were as follows:

117



46



73



123



Well done Squirrels!

Running Totals:

117

46

73

123

STARS OF THE WEEK

The following children were nominated by the TAs for good manners and joined Mr Petty on the Star Table .

Reception - N/A

Year 1 - Annabelle

Year 2 - Scarlett

Year 3 - James S

Year 4 - Kofi

Year 5 - Max

Year 6 - Tommy

Weekly Teacher Nominations this week were:-

Reception - N/A

Year 1 - Peter

Year 2 - Theo

Year 3 - Daisy

Year 4 - Sofia

Year 5 - Julia

Year 6 - Nana & Ellie

ATTENDANCE STARS

Hawking

97.9%



Goodall

96.6%



Attenborough

96.4%



Luther King

90.1%



SCHOOL DIARY



Date	Event
Tuesday 12th September	Life Skills Workshop Years 1 to 6
Friday 15th September	Year 4 trip to Verulamium Museum
Monday 18th September	Year 1 Parents' Meeting—2:45pm
Tuesday 19th September	Year 2 Parents' Meeting—2:45pm
Wednesday 20th September	Year 5 Parents' Meeting—2:45pm
Thursday 21st September	Year 3 Parents' Meeting—2:45pm
Friday 22nd September	Year 4 Parents' Meeting—2:45pm
Monday 25th September	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 29th September	Poetry Hour St Mary's Church 2pm
Tuesday 3rd October	Harvest Festival St Mary's Church 10am
Wednesday 4th October	School Photographs
Tuesday 10th October	Parents' Evening (In person) 3:30pm—5:30pm
Wednesday 11th October	Parents' Evening (Remote) 4:30pm—7pm
Thursday 12th October	Year 7 Tea Party for 2023 leavers—3:30pm
Friday 13th October	Arts Afternoon 3:30pm
Friday 20th October	Occasional Day—School Closed
23rd October—27th October	Half Term
27th November—1st December	Year 5 & 6 Residential to Charterhouse
Friday 15th December	PTA Christmas Sale
Monday 18th December	Class Christmas Parties in the afternoon
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 20th December	End of Term Church Service 10am
Wednesday 20th December	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Thursday 4th January 2024	Inset Day—School Closed
Friday 5th January	Inset Day—School Closed
Monday 8th January	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am

“

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We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future.

We're thankful for all that God has provided; proud of where He has placed us; and excited at the potential to come.

”



The Elizabeth Fry Award for

Respect



*"Overflowing with thankfulness,
inspiration and joy"*

Respect everyone, love your fellow-believers, honour God, and respect the authorities. (1 Peter 2:17)

Prayer of the Week

Bless us, O Lord, in our teaching and learning.

Give to enquiring minds wisdom and understanding.

Inspire us all with your justice and peace

and bring us always to delight in your truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reception - Elizabeth

It has been a very exciting start to Autumn term in Elizabeth class. The cohort have started their school career with half days and have explored both the inside and outside learning environments. We have shared stories, learnt each others names and are starting to learn the routines of the day. Mrs Ellis and I are very proud of Elizabeth class and we're looking forward to next week when all the children will be in 8.40am - 1.00pm meaning they will get to make even more new friends and try school lunches in the hall for the very first time.



Year 1 - Curie

Curie class have had a fantastic start to Year 1. We are so proud of the way the children have come into school with such a positive attitude to learning and smiles on their faces every day! We have been busy exploring the classroom and all the new resources to help us learn but have also completed lots of 'work' in our first 4 days! In Maths, we have found out how many letters are in our names and have also learnt some positional language such as 'on, in, beside'. In English, we have been finding out about our new book 'Look Up' which is all about space and we have been writing some questions about things we would like to find out. The highlight of the week was the visit to the mobile planetarium at the Memorial Hall. Curie class walked very sensibly to and from the hall and the person at the planetarium said 'Are these really Year 1 children, they have sat so beautifully and listened so well!' The class were totally in awe of the presentation and it has already inspired their writing. So much more that we have managed to fit into this week but only so much space



in the newsletter!

Have a great weekend and looking forward to seeing everyone for our first full week on Monday.



Year 2 - Hawking

Hawking class have had a fantastic first week back! On only our second day we took a short walk to the Memorial Hall where a mobile planetarium was set up. The Childrens' faces said it all as soon as they entered the dome which was lit up with stars and planets. This visit links to our first English unit based on the book "Look Up" which we read for the first time yesterday. Today, we have been voting for our House captains!



Year 3 - Mandela

What a start to the year this week has been! Year 3 have impressed us all with all their learning and great questioning.

We learned a great deal of information at the Planetarium trip. Rishika: "It takes us one year to go around the sun."

Lily: "Mercury is the hottest planet because it's closest to the sun." Daisy: "Earth is the fifth planet from the sun."

In Maths, we have been regrouping 2 and 3-digit numbers. We have been using different manipulatives to help us discover where to place different values.

In Art, we have looked at different brushstrokes as a technique in painting and have sketched flowers to try our own hand at painting.

In P.E we have started Netball with a P.E. specialist and had our first lesson on Thursday!



Year 4 - Attenborough

It has been an exciting first week back for Attenborough class. We have settled back into the routines of the school day and the children have enjoyed catching up with their friends and telling me all about the things they got up to over the summer. We started off the week by going to visit the Memorial Hall where we got to go into a planetarium and learn lots of facts about space. Year 4 learnt about the moon landing and got to see footage from the moon, all the children were engaged and really enjoyed it. In Maths, we have been looking at place value, the children were using manipulatives to explore different numbers. In English, we have started our new book 'Look Up' the children really enjoyed listening to the story and writing some facts about space. We look forward to our trip next Friday to the Verulamium museum in St Albans, having done a pre visit last weekend, I know the children are really going to enjoy it and how much it is going to help us when we look at our topic the Romans in History.



Year 5 - Luther King

We had a great start to the new term in Luther-King class this week, but the highlight was most certainly our trip to the planetarium. The pupils were very excited to learn many fascinating facts about space, the planets and we had a closer look at our Milky Way. In English our book 'Look Up!' links with our science topic of space and in Maths we have been getting to grips with place value and looking at numbers with a value up to a million.

All pupils in Year 5 have showed a great attitude to their learning and have participated fully in their lessons this week.



Year 6 - Goodall

Year 6 have settled in fantastically and a lot of the week has been spent talking about our roles and responsibilities. One special role that Year 6 children hold is that of being captains and vice captains of our four school Houses. All children wrote persuasive speeches in class, and many gave them at a special house husting event this morning. Well done to all those who have taken part and congratulations to the winners who are listed below.



House Captain Results 2023-2024



Squirrels

Captain: Sophie

Vice: Tommy



Hedgehogs

Captain: Justin

Vice: Laila



Badgers

Captain: Lexi-May

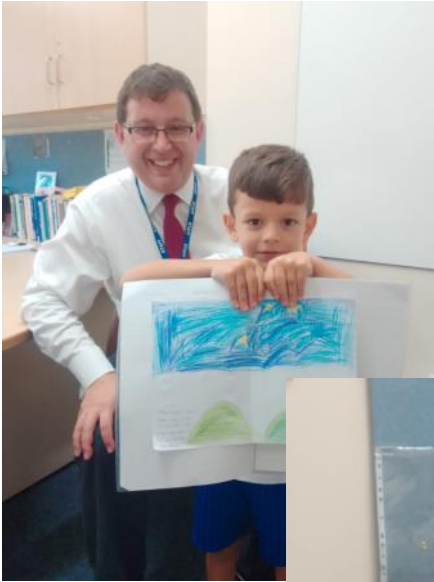
Vice: Sebastian



Rabbits

Captain: Moni

Vice: Dean



Mr Petty was thrilled to see some fantastic work from the Year 1 children this week.



Travelling to school and road safety

As we begin a new term, there are a few reminders:

Please do not just leave your children outside the school gate before 8.40am.

Please ensure that your children are aware of the principles of road safety. We had a report this week of an unaccompanied St Mary's child running out into the road on Dixons Hill Road and nearly being hit by a car.

If you are driving to the school, please observe the 20mph speed limit and do not park across the drives of residents in Dellsome Lane.



North Mymms Arts Festival

23rd - 29th September

at St Mary's Church North Mymms



Open daily 10am-4pm
(opens 11am on Sunday)
to view the exhibition

Tickets £3
on the door
(under 16s free)



Friday 22nd September 6-9pm

Preview Evening

Come along for a drink and nibbles
and have the first opportunity
to view and buy the art.

Tickets £10
from Ticketsource



Saturday 23rd September 7pm

Young Musicians' Showcase

Join us for a concert
featuring talented young musicians

Tickets £12
(under 16s £2)
from Ticketsource
or on the door



Liverpool: Ten to One by Andrew Naish

Sunday 24th September 2-4pm

Meet the Artists

Come along to meet some of the artists
to hear about their work

No need to book
Included in
entry price



Tuesday 26th September

10am & 1.30pm

Art Workshops

Join tutor Robin Elgar

Tickets £15
from Ticketsource



Thursday 28th September 2pm

St Mary's Explored

an illustrated talk by Mike Allen

No need to book
Included in
entry price



Friday 29th September 2pm

Poetry Hour: the Cosmos

with St Mary's Church Poetry Group &
pupils from St Mary's C of E Primary School

No need to book
Included in
entry price

www.northmymmsarts.co.uk