



# St. Mary's C of E Primary School

'Live life, love learning guided by God'

Newsletter 22nd March 2019

[www.stmaryschessington.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschessington.co.uk)

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## Head's Lines:

At school one of the focus areas for improvement in our Maths outcomes is mathematical reasoning. Staff have been reinforcing strategies on this during their teaching. When the children bring home Maths learning please encourage them to explain and discuss their mathematical understanding. Ask them questions about how they reached their answers and encourage them to explain their reasoning. Please also help the children in Key Stage 2 to learn to tell the time with an analogue clock if you can and not just a digital clock. Times Tables Rock Stars is available online and it is a useful resource for learning times tables which, as you know, is an expectation of the curriculum by the end of Year 4.

Headteachers from all of the schools in the south of the Borough met this week to discuss our next partnership event. During May there will be a Healthy Mind, Body and Planet Week which all of the local schools will take part in. Plans are underway with other local schools to hold a number of collaborative events. Next week at St Marys we are holding our own Wellbeing Week which has been organised by Mrs Johnson; we look forward to meeting Parents at the workshop on Monday evening. Ms Hurdhan is looking forward to her popular Zumba Club again and the staff have planned a variety of learning experiences which will enable the children to reflect on, and promote, their wellbeing.

Don't forget Groundforce Day on Sunday for the spring tidy up in our Wildlife Area if you can spare some time with a spade – we welcome anyone, green fingers or not from 10am! Mrs Hodgson

the word and discussed what makes a great storyteller. We also practised re-telling a story using drama and story maps. We're going to use all of the skills we've to write our own fantastic stories!

**Hedgehog Class:** In Literacy, we have been planning and writing our very own space stories using all our own ideas. We have created new characters, planets and events. We have been using adverbs to make our stories interesting. In Math, we have started learning about directional language and we have had fun making instructions for our friends to follow.

**Fox Class:** This week, Fox class have been learning about newspaper reports. We have read lots of different newspapers and have been identifying the features. We have also planned and written our own newspaper reports about an event in our class text Iron Man. In maths we have been investigating length and we drew a graph showing the results of a science investigation. We have begun learning about the events that happened in Holy Week.

**Otter Class:** This week we finished our investigation into the effect of different liquids on teeth (we used egg shells as a substitute for teeth.) By far the worst was orange juice – not coca cola as many of the children predicted.



We have started writing a recount based on *The Thief, the Fool and the Big Fat King* by Terry Deary. The children have enjoyed finding out about Henry VIII and Tudor times and the writing is fantastic!

**Owl Class:** What an adventure we have had this week! Owl Class have spent the first half of the week at Hooke Court, Dorset. We stayed there for 2 nights and completed a range of activities from a river study (where we got very wet!) to designing and making rockets using gunpowder. The children were able to talk articulately about their knowledge, engaged in all the activities and we had many comments about how well behaved they were. We are incredibly proud of them all!

**Falcon and Hawk Classes:** This week Year 6 have immersed themselves into our topic of India: they have written travel brochures to persuade adults to travel to India. They have explored ways to improve their vocabulary range using words like: 'exquisite,' 'authentic' and 'tantalizing.' In Maths we are developing our reasoning skills by solving a range of questions on algebra



## Class news this week

**Caterpillar Class:** This week in Caterpillar Class the children have been very interested in making things by folding paper. We have learned how to make fans and paper airplanes and have even begun to teach other children how to make things themselves!



**Butterfly Class:** This week in Butterfly Class we have been enjoying spending time in the reading corner looking at the pictures and making up stories. We have also been practising reading words that we have found around the classroom.



**Squirrel Class:** Squirrel class have been enjoying being storytellers! We have listened to a range of traditional stories from around



## Stars of the Week



**Squirrel Class: Sonny** for spotting alternative sounds in the words around us. **George** for using more ambitious words and complete sentences in his writing.

**Hedgehog Class: The whole class** for all their great work and behaviour this week.

**Fox Class: All of Fox** class for being so well behaved and resilient when Mrs Smiley was away.

**Otter Class: Macie** for brilliant behaviour and always trying her hardest in everything she does. **John** for a great improvement in his writing. Well done!

**Owl Class. All of Owl** class for being amazing at Hooke Court, You demonstrated fantastic attitude and behaviour at all times. Well done!

**Falcon Class: Martin** for showing an improvement in his concentration and resilience in class. **Jake and Freddy** for showing excellent partner work in maths this week.

**Hawk Class: Tyler** for considerable improvement in behaviour and showing respect. **Evan** for being a great maths tutor and ambassador around the class.

**Congratulations everyone, we are really proud of you for being great learners at school.**

## Family and Friends

### **Ground Force Day 24 March**

This Sunday we will be working on the Environmental Garden. If you are free to help we would love to see you there from 10am, or if you would like to donate any flowers or plants we would greatly appreciate it.

### **Easter Raffle**

We are doing an Easter Raffle this year. Tickets should be coming home in book bags/backpacks. All sold and unsold tickets and monies need to be returned to the office by Wednesday 3 April. The draw will be held on Thursday 4 April.

### **Wellbeing Week**

We will be providing inspirational quotes for the children to colour on Monday. The children will be colouring them in class and then they will be displayed around the school.

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## Attendance & Punctuality

Whole school attendance this week is **94.1%**. **Fox class** had best attendance for the week with **99.7%**. The class we need to encourage to get to school on time, this week is **Otter Class**.

Thankyou everyone for ensuring the children are at school every day; every moment is a learning moment and every day counts!

## Office News

Remember, **school photographs will be taken on Monday**. Please make sure correct school uniform is worn.

Also, as part of Wellbeing Week we will be holding an information evening on Monday at 7.30 in the hall about children and anxiety. We will look at how children experience anxiety and how we can support them with this. Please come along.

## School Letting

Did you know that the **School Hall** and **Field** are available for lettings either for one off events like parties or regular long or short term lettings? There is information on the school website or please call the office for more information

**Diary Dates:** \* = new date **Don't forget!** You can also see a full list of school events on the school calendar which is on our website.

Key Dates 2018- 2019

### **March**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Children with Anxiety information evening 7.30pm  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Class Photographs

### **April**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Egg Hunt  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Bonnet assembly, parents welcome  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Pause Day  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Service in hall, parents welcome  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term end at 1.15pm  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> INSET  
Wed 24<sup>th</sup> First Day of Term  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Walkathon—Details to come

### **May**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Owl Class assembly 9-9.30  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Muffin Day (bottles)  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Squirrel Class Assembly  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> SATs Week KS2  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Butterfly Class Cake Sale  
W/c Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Bikeability for Year 5  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 May Half Term

### **June**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> INSET  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Y6 Residential Downe Scout Adventure Centre  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Phonics Screening Week  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Caterpillar Class Cake Sale  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Fox Class Assembly  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Otter Class Assembly  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Hedgehog Class Assembly  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Muffin Day—Packet Sweets

### **July**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> EYFS Sports Day  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Sports Day  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> School Disco