



St. Mary's C.E Primary School
Castlefields Avenue South
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2NR

Tel: 01928 565995

Fax: 01928 569298

Email

sec.st-marys.halton.gov.uk

head.st-marys.halton.gov.uk

December 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Mary's,

Despite the recent icy weather and treacherous roads, we are left smiling at the end of a very busy term. The smiles are due to your children and the way in which they show respect for everyone and everything they do. We have been treated to the most wonderful KS1 performance and KS2 were not phased at all when we had to switch the location of their performance. I've said it before but it is worth saying again, events are a testament to how hard pupils and staff work, and I'd like to express a huge thank you to staff and parents for supporting each and every event. I have had some wonderful emails of thanks this year and it means the world to us – thank you.

I have written some initiatives that we, as a school, are working on, and some project work that we are engaging in.

French Links

During October term Mrs Whittaker and myself had the privilege of joining a British Delegation to France. The British Council offers a range of programs to connect teachers and students with their counterparts in France, and bring an authentic and engaging experience of French language and culture into the classroom. We both learnt a lot during our visit and were also able to share the good practice that goes on in St Mary's. We have been linked with a school near Toulouse and letters from their children to ours have arrived in the post today! It is hoped that both schools can complete some joint projects and children can communicate with each other. I have secured funding to send more staff across over the coming years.

Link with Parikrma Humanity Foundation, India

Parikrma Humanity Foundation is a non-profit organization located in Bangalore, India and was founded in 2003 by Shukla Bose. The four schools that she has set up aim to address the growing gap in urban India between those benefitting from economic liberalization and those who are not (only a minority of children in India can afford access to private schools where the content of education is of high quality and in the English medium) children from the slums and rural communities attend schools in the free government-run mass schooling system, where they only teach in the state language, which often proves insufficient in attaining job opportunities in a rapidly globalizing world. Shukla decided that she wanted to do something about this.

Parikrma runs 4 Centres for Learning and a Junior College for 2000 children from 99 slum communities and 4 orphanages in Bangalore. Parikrma is a nondenominational and non-profitable. It does not discriminate on the basis of caste, creed, or religion.

The name Parikrma comes from a combination of two Sanskrit words, "pari" meaning circle, and "krma" meaning to complete. Parikrma strives to complete "The Circle of Life" by supporting children from kindergarten until they procure a job, thus ensuring that their students break out of the cycle of poverty.

Mrs Emison has been working hard to establish a link with Parikrma. We have met online with the head teacher and other teachers from the school and will be starting a joint Reading project in January.

Courageous Advocacy

As a school we have focussed on Courageous Advocacy, each class looking beyond themselves and aiming to bring hope and be a blessing to others. Each class has completed work and had an impact in the wider or global community. Reception children made cards for elderly people, whilst Year 1 children's poster highlighted the danger our oceans face. Year 2 children learnt about the Foodbank from Tony and brought foods in to help others. During Remembrance work Year 3 wrote prayers for peace and sent them to the Russian Embassy asking for peace in The Ukraine. Year 4 children shared their talents with the wider community in their Lets Perform work. Year 5, whilst learning about Victorian children having to work, realised that children still work in today's global society. Finally Year 6 children learnt about the intolerance in Germany during the Second World War and discussed ideas to prevent this ever happening again. Work such as this equips our children to be valuable and powerful citizens.

Arts Celebration Assembly led by Mrs Emison

On Wednesday 30th November we had our first Arts Celebration Assembly. Each class talked through and showed the rest of the school one piece of creative learning from the term. This was learning in either Music, Art, Literacy, DT or Dance. Reception shared their paintings of Boris the robot, Year 1 shared the boats they had made in DT, Year 2 shared their learning in music playing a steady beat to a song, Year 3 shared their Iron Age roundhouses, Year 4 shared their Shakespeare insults and art work linked to the arts project they are completing, Year 5 played their 5 note compositions that they had notated and Year 6 shared their Mayan Masks. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning with each other and seeing how their learning progresses throughout the school.

Early Reading and Phonics

Mrs Emison and Mrs Macauley have been working with Caitlin Clayton from the English Hub over the last term. She has been observing Phonics teaching, providing training to Infant staff and we have also been able to secure funding to buy lots of books to support the teaching of phonics.

St Chad's Primary Dance Show

Year 11 Dance leaders from St. Chad's came into school for 3 weeks to teach a dance to children in Years 5 and 6. Following the 3 weeks of learning choreography, the children then went to St. Chad's and alongside other schools, they performed in the St. Chad's Primary Dance Show. The show was fantastic and our children were amazing. Every one of them gave it their all and shone on the stage. Huge well done to all the children involved and a big thank you to St. Chad's and their Dance leaders.

Music Club

We have been using picture, parts of films and stories as a starting point for our compositions. We have also worked on notating these compositions in different ways using notes, pictures and different symbols.

Nursery

We know that there are lots of places still available for children from the age of 2 year old. Please contact the nursery if you are interested in the coming months.

Update on the retirees

You will be pleased to know that both Mrs Perry and Mrs Curtis are doing very well. They have both been into school and children have been delighted to see them. Mrs Perry has accompanied many trips this term and Mrs Curtis has begun her time as a school governor. Today she has been truly impressed by the work each class has completed on Courageous Advocacy.

CAR PARK

A reminder please that the car park is a staff car park and not intended for use by parents. There is a disabled bay and that is open to disabled visitors. Please respect this and do not park there unless you are a permit holder.

Attendance

In line with guidance the school does not authorize holidays. It is crucial that children are in school to learn. We understand that children are poorly but please let us know if this is the case.

Important dates

- 21st December - Break up for Christmas 2.00 p.m.
- 4th January - Return to school
- 10th January - Family Learning 11.00 a.m.
- 10th January - Family Assembly 2.40 p.m.
- 11th January - Y6 Class Assembly
- 17th January - Family Learning 11.00 p.m.
- 18th January - Y6 Oral Health Check
- 18th January – Family Assembly 2.40 p.m.
- 24th January – Family Learning 2.40 p.m.
- 24th January – Y3 visit to Norton Priory
- 25th January – Y4 Class Assembly

From all the staff at St Mary's we wish you and your families a very

*Merry
Christmas*

and best wishes for the New Year