



Newsletter 02 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Families,

This year we are taking a different approach to the newsletter as we like to keep things fresh! The newsletter will come out on the first Friday of each month so that you know for the month ahead the Christian Value of the month and the Unicef Article of the month. Also regular contributions will be made by members of staff about what goes on in school so that you are aware of everything we get up to at St Mary's. We will also include community news when we can. Our website is also under-going an early spring-clean – we are clearing away many of the older items and making room for new information. There is a lot of information which has to be on a school website, such as policies and curriculum provision but we hope our gallery and information pages help you learn more about our school and helping your child to do their best.

Walking bus



Every morning at 8:15am our lovely walking bus ladies – Mrs David and Mrs Rahman

set off to Hatfield car park to collect children for the walking bus. Sadly, they only ever have one or two children. Just think; you could drive to the car park and, free-of-charge, drop your child off to our staff who will walk them to school for free! You won't have any hassle with parking and can have a stress-free start to your day. What could possibly be better than this?

Parking

What can I say and where do I start?? Never in my wildest dreams would I have put my own child through what I see happening outside the school every single morning. Parents parking illegally, parents holding up traffic, parents shouting at each other. It is beyond belief and an embarrassment to the school. Parents reading this – you know who you are – should be ashamed of your behaviour and your appalling road sense. You are setting terrible examples to your children by showing them that it's okay to break the law and put lives in danger. It isn't okay and it must stop before a nasty accident happens.



Sport/PE

First competition of the year will be on Tuesday 2nd October. We are taking 9 boys and girls from Year 4 to a football tournament, hosted by Penn Wood Primary School. This is the first of 37 competitions we as a school will be aiming to compete in throughout the school year. If there are any parents that would be interested in becoming a sports volunteer to assist with taking the children to these tournaments with Mr McCarroll, please visit the school office to speak to Mr McCarroll or Miss Laskawiec.

Rights Respecting School – GOLD!



Each month we will be informing you about our work with Unicef to promote the rights of children. The article of the month is always displayed at the footer of the newsletter along with our value of

the month. Please help your child to read and understand their rights as we do a lot of work around these in school. This month the focus is on every child having the right to an education which develops their personality, respect for others' rights and the environment. **Article 29** says that a child or young person's education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can.

Find out more here: [Rights Respecting Schools](#)

Attendance

Classes with **over 96%** attendance in the last month:

- Y1 Peach and Plum
- Y2 Cherry and Damson
- Y3 Oak (100%) Ash
- Y4 Beech, Hazel and Larch
- Y5 Juniper and Alder
- Y6 Maple (100%)



Sayer's Croft Residential Year 4, 5 and 6 Children

Letters went home on Tuesday for this; we expect a great response to this 2-night/3-day trip on June 10-12th 2019 and remind parents that it is 'first-come, first-served' – there are only 18 girls' and 20 boys' places!

All replies must go to the office by Monday 08<sup>th</sup> October. Places will be confirmed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, before any deposits can be paid for this - on ParentPay only.





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**'European Day of Languages' Assembly**



The KS2 children took part in an assembly celebrating the wealth of languages present at St Mary's.

They sang and said a prayer in Spanish; they informed us about interesting facts about languages and they greeted us in their various languages. They made us proud! Bien hecho! Well done!

**Active Movement**

Active Movement is well underway in school and already innovation and enthusiasm has been shown by the teachers. We constantly remind children about the value of standing up and moving so they will want to do so when asked. You may notice posters and messages around school, designed to educate and inspire children to get more active. In Nursery and Reception, 'Max' and 'Tiggy' encourage less sitting and more walking. Most importantly all teachers have been trained to reduce sitting and add low-level activity to daily routines in the classroom. We are recruiting children from Years 2-5 (our Active Movement 'AM'bassadors) to help with the introduction of Active Movement into the school.

**Welcome meetings**

All presentations for year groups' welcome meetings are now on the school website. If you came to a meeting these are reminders of all you were informed about and if you didn't manage to make it then this will help you and your child have a great year in school. Find them by clicking on the **'Parents'**.



**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thanks to all parents who attended our lovely coffee morning and contributed or bought cakes either at the coffee morning or after school. We raised the grand total of: **£366.47!** Every penny raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Care. We would like to thank to **Starbucks Slough** again for donating coffee, cups and accessories. Don't forget our coffee mornings are a chance to catch up with people, make new friends and chat to staff. We'd love you to make time to pop in for our **next community coffee morning on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December** for Christmas Jumper Day - all proceeds going to 'Save the Children'.

**Community News**

**Shoe Share**

Did your child's feet grow over the summer holidays? Did you buy new school shoes? Do you have old shoes cluttering your home? Then ShoeShare is just what you need! ShoeShare is a campaign in partnership with Unicef and Clarks Shoes to collect old or unwanted shoes, which are sent for re-use. For every tonne of shoes collected, a donation is made to Unicef which goes towards education programmes around the world. £155,000 was raised through ShoeShare in 2017. All you need do is take unwanted shoes to your nearest Clarks shoe shop and hand them to a shop assistant or put them in a donations collection point. Thank you for supporting less fortunate children around the world.



**Timpson, Attachment, Trauma and 'Looked After Children'**



Most people know Timpson for shoe repairs and key-cutting, but you might not know about their support for vulnerable people. They are currently giving away sets of useful books - the result of a lifetime of Alex and John Timpson's foster-work, caring for over 90 children and young people. Alex Timpson MBE died in January 2016. In tribute to the huge contribution she made to championing rights of looked-after children, the Timpson family established 'The Alex Timpson Trust' in her honour. Book titles are:

- Looking after 'looked-after' children
- A guide to attachment and how it can affect lives
- How to create positive futures despite difficult starts
- A guide to attachment awareness in schools

Nip into Timpson stores to get your own copies or find out more at their website: <https://www.timpson-group.co.uk/alex-timpson-trust/free-books/>

**A Musical Adventure**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 11:00am  
St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1JP  
The Dionysus Ensemble ~ a children's concert with bite-sized music & plenty of chances for fidgety feet to get up, join in & dance. All children £2 — Adults free!

**Reserve your tickets online at**  
[www.amusicaladventure.co.uk](http://www.amusicaladventure.co.uk)

**Kind wishes**

**Mrs. R. Cross & Mrs. J. Garrett**  
**Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher**